

## County 'Wants Library—Not Bonds'

Chairman Elizabeth Rogers of the York County Library Board, and Amanda McLean, a recently appointed board member, presented persuasive arguments to the York County Taxpayers' Association Tuesday night that the lower county sorely needs an enlarged library facility. The Taxpayers were not persuaded, however, that the board's proposal to seek a bond issue on the November ballot has much chance of success.

In a far ranging discussion after the presentations, it was noted that York voters have been wary of bond issues since the sewer "fiasco." It was also pointed out that the sanitary landfill bonds authorized last

November have still not been sold because of continuing high interest rates.

Mrs. Rogers traced the history of the county's library from its foundation by the York County Volunteers Association in 1968. In 1971, she said, the county started paying the rent, later hired a full-time librarian and moved the library to its present site in Grafton Shopping Center. She noted that the library's space has remained at 2,500 square feet since 1977, although the number of patrons has more than doubled to 13,500 this year, the collection of books has nearly tripled to 20,000, and book check-outs have tripled to 107,000.

Mrs. McLean reported that 25 to 40 volunteers augment the staff of four professionals. She said Friends of the Library have launched a \$100,000 campaign for donations to help fund a new library.

In response to questions, it was revealed there is no provision for a library in the county's comprehensive plan and that the planning commission for the past five years has omitted library expansion from its capital improvements programs.

The Taxpayers, chaired by Christie Vernon, agreed to review the county's planning process at its next meeting, June 24.

Crier May 28 '81

CITIZEN NEWS - 6/81

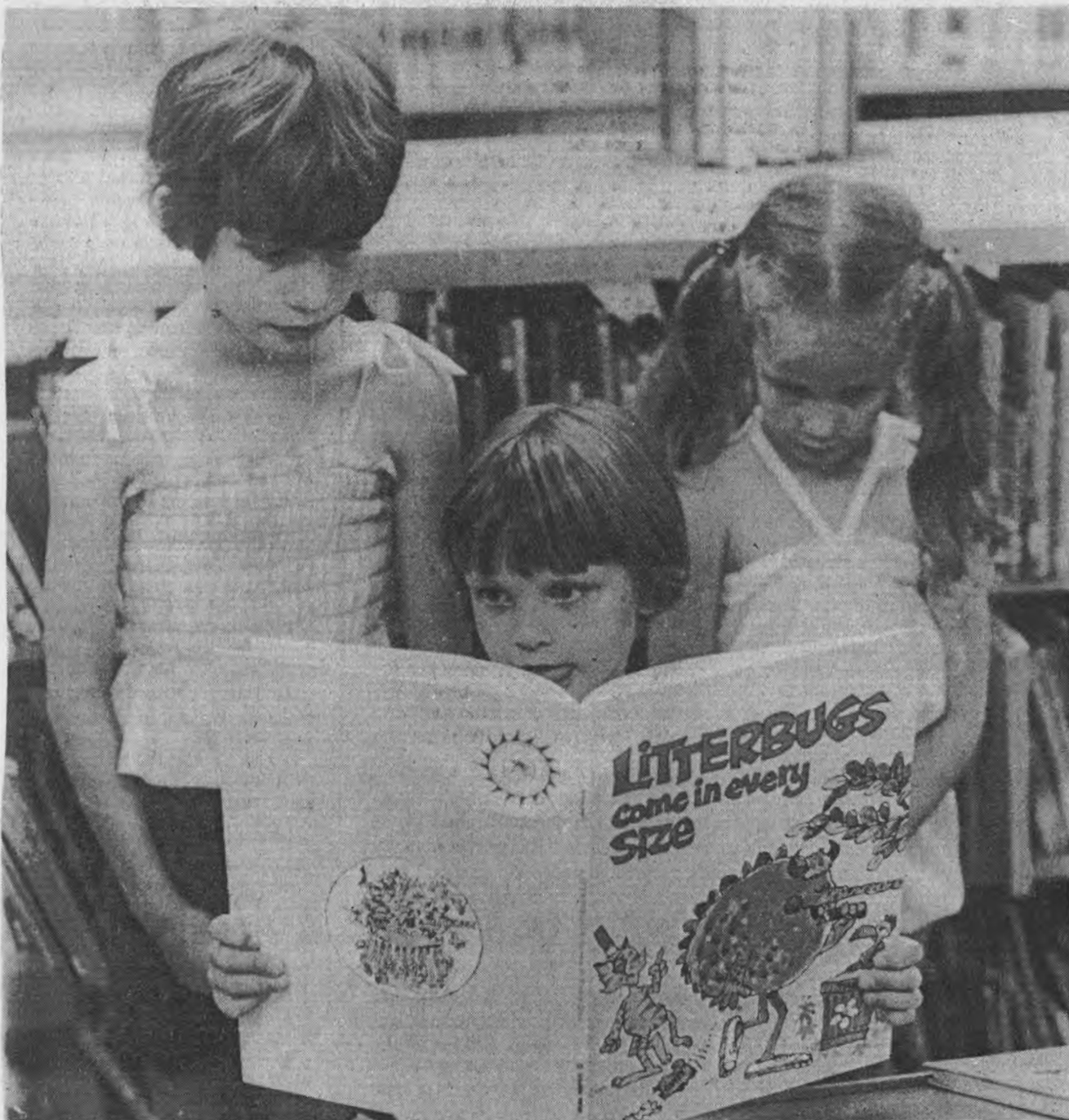
### PETITIONS ASK FOR VOTE ON LIBRARY BONDS

Petitions are available at the Public Library in Grafton this month to ask the Circuit Court for a referendum on whether York County should issue bonds for a new library.

If the Court calls a referendum, citizens will have an opportunity to vote on the question, probably at the November 3 general election.

Petitions may be signed at the Library weekdays 10 am to 9 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. Members of the Library Board or Steering Committee also have petitions. For more information contact Amanda McLean, Petition Coordinator, 898-3767.

A slide program designed to present library problems and the statistical basis for the new library appeal has been prepared by the Library Steering Committee. The program is available to civic organizations by contacting Jean Kirkham 898-5691.



## Good reading

"Litterbugs Come in Every Size," a new book at the York County Library in Grafton, was pronounced good reading this week by (from left) Emily Trexler, Heather VanderPas and Melody Trexler. Copies of the book, donated by the York County Beautification Committee, will also be placed in all elementary school libraries.

DAILY PRESS 7/24/81

# York Considers November Vote On New Library

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — The people of York County will decide in November whether they are willing to pay for a new county library.

After a 30-minute executive session with members of the library board, to discuss acquisition of real estate, the supervisors announced the Aug. 6 meeting of the board will include asking the circuit court to allow a referendum to issue bonds to finance a new library.

The county library now operates out of a 2,500-square-foot storefront in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Library board members and patrons are considering a 11,000-square-foot library to be built on property in Grafton.

Estimates call for the cost of the library project to be around \$1 million, but the amount to be asked for in the referendum will be decided later.

The library board has established a committee to raise funds to buy the land.

In other action at Thursday's work session, the board:

- Agreed to establish a policy of installing 10 fire hydrants per year, on a first come, first serve basis, upon request from county residents. The county would pay the cost of installation, which averages around \$2,000, with the requesting parties required to

pay 10 years rental fees in advance. The hydrants are rented from Newport News at an annual rate of \$110 now. The rates are projected to increase to \$160 in the next three years.

- Agreed to buy about 35 "No Trespassing" signs to be placed, with the owners' consent, on private property along the Yorktown beach.

Sheriff A.S. White said the signs are needed to help him enforce noise and loitering ordinances on the waterfront at night.

Commercial and residential occupants of the waterfront have complained of the problems caused by nighttime activities on the waterfront.

White has told the supervisors when he tries to get people to leave they move from the public land to private property where he has no jurisdiction without the signs.

- Agreed to take action on the proposed county solid waste ordinance at the Aug. 6 meeting.

After meeting with commercial waste haulers, the supervisors decided to set the hours of operation for the new landfill at 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except holidays.

The board also decided to require the haulers to obtain business licenses and operating permits to use the landfill.

The supervisors will also consider a user fee for the landfill.



Daily Press, Wednesday, August 5, 1981



### Library Party

GRAFTON — Pixie, a magician and illusionist, will perform for a children's party in the York County Public Library here at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 14.

The party will mark the end of the library's summer reading program and is sponsored by the Friends of the York County Library.

All children who participated in the Giant Giraffe reading program are invited to attend.

Special prizes will be awarded.









photo by Bill Sizemore

## It's magic!

"Pixie," the lady magician, charmed a roomful of children at the Giant Giraffe Reading Club party at the York County Public Library last week. Assisting her in a rope trick were (from left) Daniel Hall, Lori Presson and Ryan Gundersen. Kristin Crouch, who read the most books this summer-

- 211 - won a ticket to Busch Gardens for her efforts. Five more tickets, for reading 20 or more books, went to Scott Crouch, Sharie Sorenson, Kelly Adams, Lynne Boxer and Michael Miller.

## Speakers available to push proposal for new library

GRAFTON - Friends of the York County Library are available to speak to county groups about plans for a new public library building.

The speakers are part of a promotional campaign aimed at generating public support for a library bond

issue to be voted on by county citizens in November.

The proposed new facility would replace a cramped storefront in Grafton Shopping Center which is now the county's only public library.

The promotional campaign is a

joint effort of the Library Board, the Library Building Steering Committee and the executive committee of the Friends of the Library.

The campaign will include brochures, newspaper publicity and

posters urging support for the bond issue.

To get a speaker or to enlist as a volunteer in the campaign, call the library at 898-0077.

DAILY PRESS 8/1/81

## Agenda In York Busy

YORKTOWN — Redistricting, a call for a bond referendum to finance a new county library and financing for a regional resource recovery program will be the highlights of a heavy agenda for the York County supervisors regular meeting that begins at 7 p.m. Thursday.

The county planning department staff is expected to ask the supervisors to scheduled a work session to consider redistricting based on the 1980 census information.

The redistricting for the county's five election districts is needed because of the population growths and shifts

since the 1970 census.

Supervisors will also consider allocating \$20,000 as the county's share of a study for a resource recovery program, along with James City County and the city of Williamsburg.

The three localities are trying to determine if a plant could be built to burn solid waste to generate steam as an energy source to sell to a local industry.

Thy supervisors are also set to ask the circuit court to call for a Nov. 3 referendum for bonds to finance a new library in the county.

14 Daily Press, Friday, August 7, 1981

# York Seeks Referendum On New Library

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — With little fanfare the York County supervisors voted Thursday to ask the circuit court to hold a bond referendum in November to finance construction of a new county library.

The referendum for a \$900,000 bond issue was requested by the county library board.

The library board and a consultant have decided on a 11,000-square-foot library to replace the current county library, which operates in a 2,500-square-foot space in the Grafton Shopping Center. The library board has established a separate committee to find a new location for the library in the Grafton area of the county.



# Citizen News

Vol II No 3

YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

FALL 1981

## Voters Will Decide

### LIBRARY BONDS-YES OR NO?

On November 3 York citizens will have the opportunity to vote on whether \$900,000 in general obligation bonds should be issued to build a public library.

The Library Board, unable to find an existing building of proper size and location, requested the assistance of the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors determined that a referendum should be scheduled to let citizens decide whether to build a library and the Circuit Court has signed an order calling for a referendum.

#### WHAT A YES VOTE MEANS

If a majority of voters says YES, a building of about 11,000 square feet would be built in the Grafton area, on or near Route 17. The building would provide new services, including a separate reference area, a reading lounge for periodicals, a children's area for storytelling and educational activities, a local history and archive room, and a community meeting room.

The bond issue would add about 2½ cents per \$100 to the real estate tax rate in the first year at current assessed valuations. The principal will be reduced each year and therefore the interest will be reduced and its effect on the tax rate will parallel that reduction. The bonds would be retired over a period of 15-20 years and current interest rates are 10%.

The County's current indebtedness is approximately \$24 million. The debt ceiling allowed by State law for York County is approximately \$80 million.

The bonds would provide funds for construction (about \$60 per square foot), site acquisition and preparation, utilities extension and furnishings, according to the Library Board.

#### WHAT A NO VOTE MEANS

If the majority of voters says NO, the Library Board indicates that the library probably will remain in the rented Grafton Shopping Center storefront where space for new books will run out within a year.

"Increasing membership is putting pressure on the collection and services and may cause some curtailment in the future," said Library Board chairman Elizabeth Rogers.

Librarian Beverly Dudley says the current 20-foot by 125-foot facility has no area for quiet study or periodicals and the lack of a separate area for children's programs causes conflicts with adult use of the library.

#### STATE LIBRARY GUIDELINES

Virginia Library Guidelines recommend .6 square feet of library space per capita (21,000 square feet for York), or nearly 10 times the current library space. A professional library consultant has recommended a minimum of 11,000 square feet, which is the size of the proposed library.

#### YORK LIBRARY GROWTH

York's library houses 25,000 items with a circulation last year of 125,000 items, an increase of 18,000 over the previous year's circulation. About 200 members join the library each month, according to library statistics.

#### Register and Vote

To be eligible to vote in the November 3 general election and referendum, be sure to register by October 3 at the Voter Registrar's new office location in the Courts and Office Center, Yorktown.



# Library Newsletter

York County, Va.

October 1981

## LIBRARY MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

York County Library celebrates its 10th anniversary this month. In honor of the occasion, and to start its second decade with a rousing sendoff, special events will be held October 20-25. Everyone is invited to come and help celebrate, with contests, daily refreshments, a special pet show, and an Open House on Sunday.

Can you guess how far a library staff member walks during a 40-hour work week? Can you guess how many jelly beans are in a jar? These guessing contests will be open to anyone with a library card, and prizes will be awarded at the Open House.

## PET SHOW

Children from preschool age through sixth grade are invited to bring their stuffed animal pets to a "pet show" on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 pm. There will be prizes, movies, and refreshments.

## OPEN HOUSE

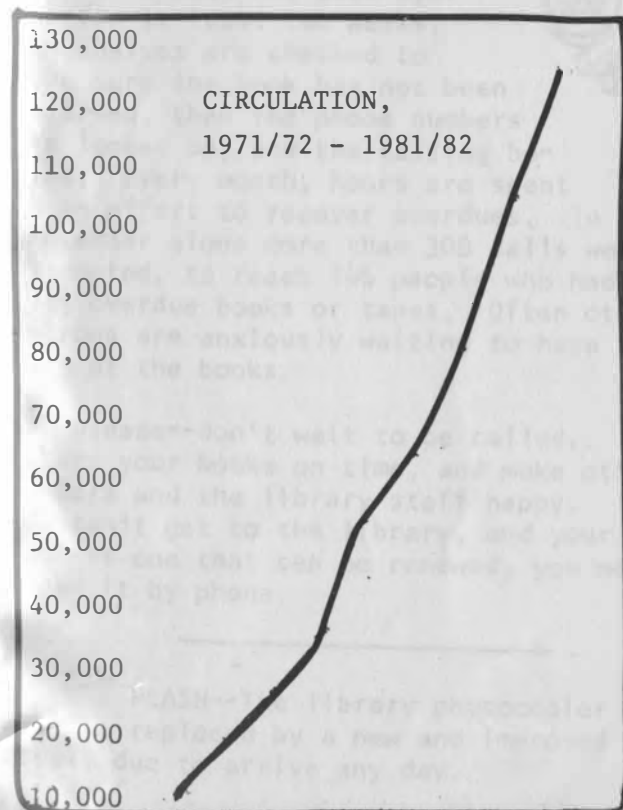
Open House will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25, beginning at 2 pm in the Library and the parking lot, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. You can meet an author, some local political candidates, and members of the Library Board. We'll have entertainment, music, and refreshments. Non-members are especially invited to get acquainted with the library and obtain a membership card. Come and join the celebration--and bring a friend!

## TEN YEARS GROWING

Ten years ago this month, York County Library held its Grand Opening in its new quarters in the Grafton Shopping Center. Months earlier, volunteers had begun bringing books, shelves, and furniture (all second- and third-hand) across the road from an old house where the volunteer library had been operating. In less than two months, while unpacking was still being done, membership had more than doubled, and circulation had increase so rapidly that the volunteer staff couldn't keep up with the workload.

Much has happened in the ten years since then. County support increased, a Library Board was appointed, the Friends of the Library organized, and staff was hired. Five years ago the size of the building was nearly doubled, and quickly filled up again with new shelves, furniture, books, racks, until floor space was at a premium.

Our book collection now numbers almost 24,000, plus paperbacks, pamphlets, and tape cassettes. The best indicator of a library's use is its circulation record--the number of items checked out each year. The graph at left shows how our circulation continues to rise at an ever-increasing rate. More items were checked out in the month of July 1981 than during the entire year of 1971-72, our first full year as a County Library!





At its October meeting, the County Board of Supervisors issued a formal Resolution recognizing the Tenth Anniversary of the York County Library and commending the Library Board, the Friends of the Library the volunteers, and the staff.

### FUNDS FOR A NEW LIBRARY

On the November 3 ballot you will be asked to vote on the following question: "Shall York County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$900,000 ... to provide funds, together with other available funds to finance the cost of constructing and equipping a library, including the acquisition of land therefore."

Library patrons should need no persuasion to vote "Yes" on this referendum. Without the support of every patron who is an eligible voter, it is unlikely that it will pass, and in order to insure passage, more than your vote is needed.

Wouldn't you like to have a library with more room for shelves, books, magazines, newspapers? Wouldn't it be great to have a separate area for children's books and activities, and a quiet place to study? Wouldn't it be convenient to have a meeting room for programs and community affairs--and even some more space so the staff could work more efficiently? In short, shouldn't York County have a library it could be proud of?

How can you help? If you have friends or neighbors who don't use the library, tell them what the library has to offer, and what more it could offer in a larger building. Invite them to come to the Open House on October 25 to see for themselves. Pass on this Newsletter, and urge others to vote Yes on the referendum.



And don't forget to vote!

### MICROFICHE READER AND INTERLIBRARY LOANS

If you need a book that the library does not own, we may be able to obtain it for you through Interlibrary Loan. The Virginia State Library has given us a microfiche collection representing the holdings of several large public libraries and most college libraries in the state. Our microfiche reader is used to locate the book you need, if it is available, and we can request to borrow it.

The microfiche reader is also used in conjunction with the York County Real Estate Atlas and Assessment Book, which has been updated on microfiche. A library staff member will help you if you need assistance in using the microfiche.

### HAVE YOU BOUGHT ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

You bet you have! Last year, with \$3.70 of your tax money, you bought a share in 2,988 new books, which included best sellers, expensive reference works, children's books, and also 230 new tape cassettes! They're here at the Library for your use, along with the 21,000 that were already on the library shelves. If you check out just one book a year, you're getting more than your money's worth.



### DID YOU KNOW THAT THE LIBRARY HAS:

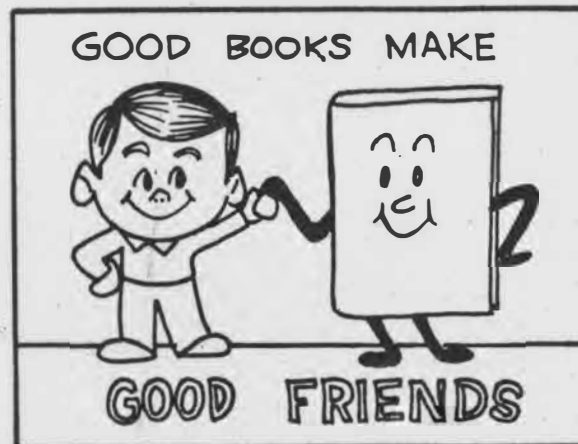
- More than 200 new books added to its collection each month?
- Language lesson tapes, in French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Russian?
- A large collection of large-print books for readers who have visual difficulty?
- Story hour for preschoolers each Wednesday morning at 10:30?
- A pamphlet file containing more than 1500 items that can be checked out?
- An excellent genealogy section in the Virginia collection?
- County information, including Minutes of Supervisors meetings, employment opportunities, etc.?
- College catalogs, pattern books, Facts on File, Consumer Reports?
- A photocopier?
- An extensive and up-to-date reference collection?



### York County Library

York County will pay in 1981 \$21,000 to the City of Williamsburg for library services to Bruton District residents through the Williamsburg Regional Library. The rest of the county is served by a small, narrow store in the Grafton Shopping Plaza off Route 17. This building is too cramped to serve the 30,000 people in the lower end of the county. On November 3, on the election ballot, there will be a Library Bond Referendum question for the funding of a site, construction and furnishing of a library building. Should the citizens of York County support \$900,000 in bonds to be used for the 11,000 square foot structure? This building would house books and services such as a childrens' area, study space, a reference section for the next 15 years. The bond referendum would cost each taxpayer's family approximately the price of a hardback fiction book each year. Call 229-3779, Elizabeth Rogers, for more information.

*Bruton  
Bulletin,  
Sept. 1981*



**Books build minds  
People build libraries**

#### **Vote For Library**

I would take this opportunity to ask the people of York County to vote for the November Library Bond Referendum. The referendum calls for a \$900,000 bond to be used for construction, land, and equipment for a York County library. I would not endorse this issue so strongly if the need was not so great. As I understand it, this would mean \$20 a year on your tax bill.

I sincerely urge you to vote Tuesday, Nov. 3 for this library. I feel the children and adults of our county have begged long enough for this facility.

Shirley Cooper

Yorktown  
DAILY PRESS 10/26/81

## Library has 10th birthday

GRAFTON — Several special events are planned as York County Public Library celebrates its 10th anniversary this month.

Children from preschool age through sixth grade are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals to a "pet show" Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2pm. There will be prizes, movies and refreshments.

Sunday, Oct. 25, the library will hold an open house beginning at 2pm. Visitors can meet an author, some local political candidates and members of the Library Board.

There will be entertainment, music, displays and refreshments.

Prizes will be awarded at the open house to winners of the guessing contests being held this week. The contests are open to anyone with a library card.

The winners will be those who come closest to guessing how far a library staff member walks during a 40-hour work week and how many jelly beans are in a jar.

*Crier 10/22/81*



Daily Press Oct. 22, 1981

### Stuffed Pets

GRAFTON — A stuffed pet show for children, preschool through sixth grade, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the York County Public Library in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Interested children should bring their favorite stuffed pet for showing. The stuffed pets will be judged and prizes will be awarded.

Also, a movie will be shown and refreshments will be served. For information contact the library at 898-0077.

### Library Anniversary

GRAFTON — The York County Public Library will celebrate its 10th anniversary in its present location with an open house beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday in the library at the Grafton Shopping Center.

The open house will include exhibits of library material, refreshments and performances by the Bruton High School Jazz Band and the York High Mime troupe.



## Library Bonds - Yes or No?

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### What a Yes Vote Means:

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### What a No Vote Means:

If the majority of voters says 'no,' the Library Board indicates that the library will remain in the rented Grafton Shopping Center store-front where space for new books will run out within a year.

"Increasing membership is putting pressure on the collection and services and may cause some curtailment in the future," said Library Board chairman Elizabeth Rogers.

Librarian Beverly Dudley says the current 20-foot by 125-foot facility has no area for quiet study or periodicals and the lack of a separate area for children's programs causes conflicts with adult use of the library.

## Referendum on Nov. 3 Ballot

## Facts on York Library presented to association

The York County Library in the Grafton Shopping Center, used by 14,000 patrons in 1980, has 2,500 square feet of space. The Magruder Elementary School library, used by 400 children, has 2,375 square feet. The county library currently contains approximately 20,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction and reference works for juveniles and adults. There are no magazines, because there's no place to put them. There are 2 study tables and 6 chairs. There's a children's program run by volunteers. 110,000 books were checked out last year.

There are a few of the facts presented to the Upper York County Civic Association on Wednesday evening by Mrs. Elizabeth C. Rogers, chairman of the York County Library Board. There will be a referendum on the November 3 ballot asking if York citizens will support purchase of a \$900,000 bond issue to build a new 11,000 square foot modern library in the lower county. This would result in a property tax increase of about \$9.00 to \$15.00 per year — about the price of a good hardcover book.

Cooperation between the county and the Williamsburg Regional Library will not end. With the new addition, the Williamsburg Library now has 24,000 square feet. Until recently, York citizens paid \$5.00 a year to use the Williamsburg Library. Now the county contributes tax money, and the fee has been eliminated. Altogether, the county budget contributes \$21,000 for library support — \$2.63 per citizen.

As the lease on the Grafton store is about to expire, the Library Board had to consider alternatives for the future. They hired consultants who recommended 11,000 square feet as the minimum size for the 30,000 population served. This would include room for stacks, a reference area, reading areas, toilets, room for magazines, a separate children's section, check out desk, and card catalogue section. The Board circulated a petition asking that the citizen's support putting the question on the ballot. Most citizens there favored the idea of a new library. It's up to the voters now.

In other business, the Heritage Republican Women's Club presented Mrs. Rogers with a new book for the library: *Tidewater Dynasty, The Lees of Stratford Hall*, a biographical novel. Mrs. Marian Beckley also introduced Charles H. (Mae) Duff, III, the Republican candidate for the General Assembly from District 46, the "Floater" seat which is shared with Hampton.

The Upper York County Civic association meets monthly to hear speakers from various public organizations, meet their Supervisors, and express opinions on activities which concern them. It is open to all citizens from the Upper County, and has members from Lackey to Skimino Hills. For further information call the chairman, Leroy "Chubby" Hill at 229-7183, or Peggy Kossler, 229-8060.



## Magical Mysteries and Honorable Mentions

by Linda Bordeaux

If you've ever wondered if something can be known, or how it is to be known, or if it's already known, then you've probably visited a library. Libraries connect us with the greatest minds that ever were and with the best teachers to interest us and inspire us. Libraries house books, and books break the shackles of time, proof that humans can work magic.

Off Route 17 in York County, nestled in a community of stores that belong to Grafton Shopping Center, is the York County Public Library, a place of magic. Established ten years ago this month, the library now contains some 24,000 volumes, plus paperbacks, pamphlets, and tape cassettes — lots of magic events will be held October 20-25 at the library. The public is invited to come and help celebrate with contests, daily refreshments, a special pet show, and an open house on Sunday, the 25th.

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The beginnings of the York Public Library were inauspicious to say the least. Director Beverly Dudley tells us that "the library was first located in an old house across the road from its present site in Grafton Shopping Center." Mrs. Dudley has been with the library from the first, and she along with the other volunteers brought over books, shelves and furniture and set up the library at its present location. "I used to be a teacher," she says, "and I realize the value of libraries. It's the American dream; to become anything you want, all you have to do is educate yourself; and libraries house the books to help you do it." She emphasizes that the aim of the York Library is to serve everybody. "We have cassettes for teenagers, car and household repair manuals, and books and materials on aging for senior citizens." She continues, "If we don't have something, we'd like to know how to get it. We're open to suggestion."

Over the years, the York Library has grown impressively. Ten years ago this month, the library moved to its present location in Grafton Shopping Center and in less than two months, membership had more than doubled. Since then, a Library Board has been appointed. Friends of the Library organized, and a staff hired. Five years ago, the size of the building was nearly doubted to keep up with demand.

But the best indicator of a library's use is its circulation record, and the graph below shows how circulation at the York Library has continued to rise. An indication, maybe, that the interest in magic is increasing? Houdini would be proud of us!

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All libraries need support in order to give good service. It has been said that you can judge a society by the quality of its libraries. The point being: good libraries reflect citizens who are interested and know the value of obtaining and storehousing information.

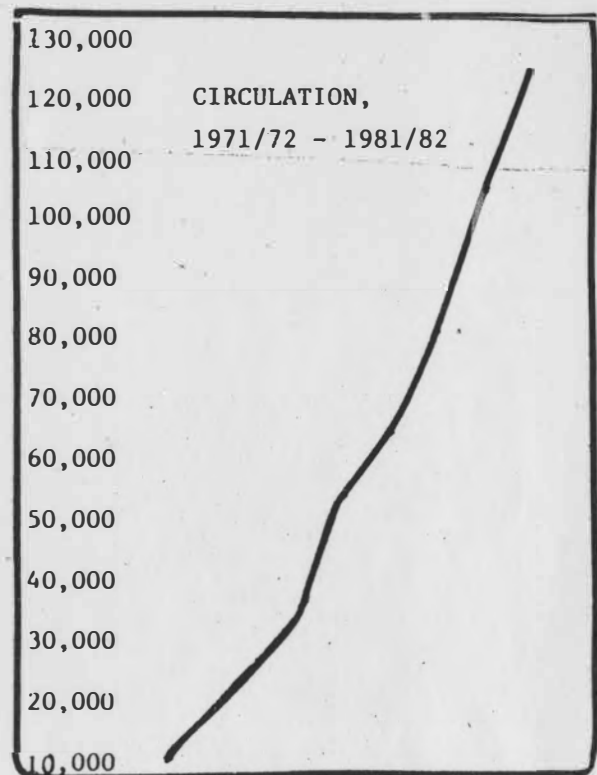
On November 3, York County citizens will be asked to decide the following question: Shall York County

issue general obligation bonds to provide funds to finance the cost of constructing and equipping a new library? Do we need a new library? Is demand outstripping available resources?

According to Mrs. Dudley, yes, she feels the county needs a larger library so separate space will be available to store things particular to the county such as artifacts and history. She emphasizes that, "we are a cultural center for the county, and we need a quality library to serve the citizens in our area." She continues, "The citizen of York County can't expect the taxpayers of Hampton and Newport News to provide library service to us. We need to be an equal partner."

What does she see in the future for libraries? "I'm sure that in the future, the whole Peninsula will be network. A patron will be able to come into the library and locate information anywhere on the Peninsula. And," she states, "York County citizens deserve to be a part of this."

What other innovations are on the horizon? Forecasters tell us that we are in the age of electronic magic: computers, data bases, microfiche, microfilm — magic available instantly from the most remote sources and from the most advanced minds. Computers are here to stay! Electronic Wizardry is here to stay! Houdini would be proud of us!







## STUFFED PET SHOW WINNERS

Alexandra Finger	Biggest
Karin Greene	Biggest
Emily Trexler	Newest
Nikki Price	Newest
Stacy Judjahn	Oldest
Caroline Nichols	Oldest
Laci Wood	Unusual
Elizabeth Lynch	Unusual
Windi Forrest	Most Loved/Worn
Mark Gabriele	Most Loved/Worn
Alan Sadler	Smallest
Sharon Brierly	Smallest



### DOOR PRIZE

Eric Taylor

WALKING CONTEST  
JELLY BEAN CONTEST  
JELLY BEAN CONTEST

Frank Jones  
Chrissy Kalbert  
Chrissy Kalbert





TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
OPEN HOUSE  
October 25, 1981





Staff Photo By Kenneth Silver

## Library Open House

The York County Public Library held an open house that included singing and refreshments to honor its 10th anni-

versary at its location in the Grafton Shopping Center. Jackie Ingram, a member of the Friends of the Library

committee, cuts the cake as Susie Kort, who baked the treat, looks on. Balloons at the open house on Sunday en-

couraged visitors to vote yes on a library referendum Nov. 3. The referendum is to provide money for a new building.

DAILY PRESS 26 Oct 81



Library Board members spoke to

Homemakers Clubs

Women's Clubs

PTA's

Organized a float for the York  
High School Homecoming parade

Put up signs and handed out  
memo pads at polling places.



Window displays  
created by  
Library staff









## 5 supervisors back bond vote

By Carolyn Click

Despite support from all five York County supervisors, the outcome of next Tuesday's referendum on whether to float \$900,000 worth of bonds for a new library remains uncertain.

Although few will dispute that the present library located in a storefront at the Grafton Shopping Center, is tremendously overcrowded, referendum opponents oppose the question because of the long-depressed bond market.

However, those who support the bond idea counter that delaying the issue will only increase the costs of acquiring land, building and equipping a library sometime in the future.

"Our feeling was that postponing the question would put us in no better position," said Elizabeth Rogers, chairman of the York County Library Board.

The library board has proposed purchasing a tract of land near the Grafton area and erecting an 11,000-square-foot building with room for expansion. Estimated costs of the building would be between \$600,000 and \$700,000, Mrs. Rogers said.

Even with a new facility, provisions would still be made within the county library budget to continue support of the Williamsburg Regional Library for residents of the Bruton District, Mrs. Rogers said.

Currently, one-fifth of the York library budget is contributed to Williamsburg since so many of the upper county residents have greater access to the library on Scotland Street than the one in Grafton.

E.S. Bingley Jr., who represents the Bruton District, said of the proposed board issue, "I have no choice but to support it."

Bingley added, "My feelings are basically this: if the people decide they want a library in York County, then it is the time to do it." Bingley noted that he would not support building a new library with general county funds if the referendum is negative next week.

Supervisor Tabb Smith said he will vote yes next Tuesday "because I think that, just like the (county) landfill, future residents will help pay for the facility."

A vote in June 1980 on a proposed \$1.2 million bond package to finance the new 104-acre county landfill on Goodwin Neck Road was successful. It represented one of the few times in recent history that all five supervisors were united on a referendum question.

Supervisor Rodgers A. Smith said of the library that he is "supporting it all the way" although he believes that county residents have been unusually quiet on the issue. "If my vote means a difference, it will pass, but it's an uphill battle." Supervisor Shirley F. Cooper has already gone on record in support of the bond issue.

The "real salvation" of the question may be bringing the bids under the \$900,000 ceiling, according to supervisor Benjamin H. Rush. "I don't want to plant any seeds, but I'm afraid that the ceiling may deter some people."

What deters Ralph Grimsley, a member of the York County Taxpayers Association, is that "this is a poor time to borrow money." The Taxpayers Association has not taken a stand on the issue, however, according to its president, Christie Vernon.

"I'm a librarian and I really would like to see York County have a decent library, but I do have reservations about borrowing money at this time," Ms. Vernon said.

Proponents have argued that funding the library would cost each household the price of a good hardbound book, anywhere from \$9 to \$20, but even those who work at the Grafton library say they don't have a feel for the referendum's outcome.

"I'm not overly optimistic," said Beverly Dudley, head librarian. "Either way I wouldn't be surprised."

## Unlock Door

I encourage the citizens of York County to support the Library Bond Referendum. A library is a welcome addition to any community. However, pending approval by the voters of this \$900,000 bond, I encourage the "powers to be" to ensure that funds will be available to employ either a full-time librarian or a full-time employee to serve the library needs. An aesthetic structure stocked with suitable material is not feasible unless the facility is accessible.

A certain segment of York County residents and/or taxpayers proceed to Hampton on weekends to use that library because the library here in York County operates on banker's hours by open-

ing at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and closing at 2 p.m. The present library is also closed on Sundays. Even though the college-age students have weekday evenings to use the library, many are compelled to work part-time in the evenings during the present economic conditions. Conversely, adults who are employed during daylight hours attend college in the evenings and there is not sufficient time, either before or after classes, to formulate all essential data for research papers, point papers, terms papers, oral presentations, etc. A viable library is one that not only houses the volumes of documented knowledge, but provides ample opportunity for others to gain access to the material. Let's build a library in York County, but let's also insist that this institution is available for use to the fullest extent possible.

Louise C. Adams

Yorktown

# Area Referendums

## LIBRARY

Once, in the history of this nation, the mark of a civilized man was his ownership and knowledge of books. A room in a home set aside for such treasures was called the library; it was a status symbol of a sort, rather like a well-equipped den or playroom of today's homes. Books were treasures, wrapped in leathers, sometimes illustrated, carefully handled and carefully maintained.

As the settlers went west from our East Coast towns, many used valuable space in saddlebags and wagons to take along the words and thoughts of other civilized men for companionship and

guidance. Books, in those times, were not for everyone, only a chosen few.

When lending libraries began in towns and counties, the school was usually the first resting place. Children took books home to parents. Later, when more space was needed, a business would donate a basement or half of a building and the community would bring its diverse volumes and share them. So it was in Hampton, then Newport News, and now York County.

York County has an opportunity to offer itself the next step in a good library system; that is, a building, staff and equipment to bring more books to more people.

The \$900,000 bond issue to be voted on Tuesday will finance the cost of constructing and equipping a library, including the acquisition of land.

This is probably one of the best investments any community can make in itself.

## Vote for library

York County voters will be voting on a library referendum in the Nov. 3 election. The complete text of the referendum follows. Shall York County, Virginia, contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$900,000 pursuant to the public finance act, as amended, to provide funds, together with other available funds, to finance the cost of constructing and equipping a library, including the acquisition of land therefore. (Yes. No.)

As a member of the York County STEERING Committee, I urge all York County library supporters to vote YES for the library referendum. We have just completed the obse vance of the past greatness of Yorktown; now let us, with the building and equipping of a new library facility, continue that spirit into the future. We will, thereby, insure the quality of life we have so long struggled for.

Jean Kirkham  
Grafton

# *Library Referendum*

Shall York County, Virginia, contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$900,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act, as amended, to provide funds, together with other available funds, to finance the cost of constructing and equipping a library, including the acquisition of land therefore.

Vote  
**YES**  
for the  
Library  
**November 3**

Beth Greene  
 Jay H Hull  
 Jodie L. Lusk  
 Judy & Herman  
 Ruth & Doyle  
~~Ray~~ Carl  
 Una M. Shuff  
 Elizabeth S. Trapp  
 Mary J. Scott  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund W. Randolph  
 Eric Sheriff  
 Dorothy J. Jones  
 Diane Friedman  
 Doris Friedman  
 Ann Cuzz  
 Carol Ann Hood  
 Ed & Mrs. Ellen Doudy  
 Penny and Bob Rice  
 Edith D. Lee  
 Diego S. Crockett  
 Florence Blankenship  
 W. H. Cotton  
 Carl R. Hays  
 Pauline J. Stanley  
 Laura F. Truett  
 Robert F. Truett  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holt, Jr.  
 Allen V. Fizer  
 Mrs. L. E. Fizer  
 Mrs. Edward P. Fernald  
 William H. Shaw Jr.  
 Elsie D. White  
 Thompson  
 Clara Shuff  
 Lena K. Muller  
 Margie Cox

Donald B Gordon Jr  
H. Tell Smith  
Paul E. Kline  
Ann L. Thorne  
Suzanne M. Feltz

William N. Colton <sup>III</sup>  
 F. L. Matthews  
 Julia E. Turner  
 Janice S. Ward  
 W. D. Ward  
 Joel D. Snyder <sup>III</sup>  
 Frank L. Jones  
 Roy H. Wagner  
 Denise Ball

Philip Ball  
J. by W. Wright  
E. by J. Wilson  
Nancy P. Dykes  
Norma Carter  
Cora Fischer  
Edna Kellie  
Maya Skays  
Leo Bates

P. W. Kissinger  
C. K. B. K.  
P. AINT in PAER  
John Thomasson

Ime Thomasson

Oliver Boston  
Joan Riddle  
Shirley Lewis  
Kathleen Rich  
Jannet Baynes  
Roger Egan

Angus Mac  
 Winnie  
 Mary M. Correll  
 John & Peter Thomas  
 Julia M. Stiles  
 Agnes & Wm  
 Laura H. Halland

Peter E. Barill  
 Clarence H. Johnson  
 Gladys M. McEachern  
 Ardis Lawrence  
 Charles W. Johnson Sr.

Anne  
Mildred Baker

Ralph W. Campbell  
Brenda Ritchard  
Pat & Antel Fales

Lester E. Bruckmeyer  
James M. Jones  
Helen M. W. W. W. W.  
John A. Hulse

Carl A. Rosenberg  
Cliff W. Chandler  
Jason A. Belor.

W J Haller  
R. B. Bowers

Shek Ng  
Frances Ruinelli  
C. J. ...

Kay Warner  
Ann West

George E. Wyatt for  
David C. Little

Any Fashions

~~St. Paul~~  
 Karen S. Bauer  
 Kathleen → Rene

Jan. 13. 1864

Cooley & Street  
Gene Brightman  
J & Eulhorn  
Allen Hagan  
Lee Jones

Austin J. Barte

Kathleen D. Barte

James M. Clark  
This mo. 4/15 - 10/15

Smiley Cooper

13  
 For Liberty  
 Jas. H. Clark  
 1870

~~Henry D. Allen~~  
 Henry D. Allen

Margie Harris  
June E. Smart  
Harris

Jacqueline C. Segre  
S. Pink, Rhinetta

Joe Hunter  
Laura Hetherington  
Oma McLean

W. T. R. L.  
F. E. McLean

A Bearf.  
Henry J. Rowe  
L. J. in L. d.

Linda M. Jaska  
 Barbara D. Luke  
 John M. Hart

~~Light - dark~~  
~~Shades of~~  
Arlo Crouch  
June - 1904

William R. Motley.  
Robert C. A. Motley  
P. B. H. A.

Patrick W. McDermott

*Paid for by friends and supporters of the library.*



Daily Press

# EDITORIALS

Sunday, November 1, 1981

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## Area Referendums

### LIBRARY

Once, in the history of this nation, the mark of a civilized man was his ownership and knowledge of books. A room in a home set aside for such treasures was called the library; it was a status symbol of a sort, rather like a well-equipped den or playroom of today's homes. Books were treasures, wrapped in leathers, sometimes illustrated, carefully handled and carefully maintained.

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# Library 'Home' On York County Ballot

By DAVID GIBSON

## Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — When voters cast their ballots on the York County library referendum Tuesday, supporters of the referendum to issue bonds to finance the library believes the voters will not face a "yes" or "no" decision but rather a "yes or yes but..." decision.

"Libraries and motherhood kind of go hand-in-hand," county library board chairman Elizabeth Rogers said.

"The question is not whether we need a new library, but whether people in the county are willing to pay for it."

Specifically, the question to be decided on Tuesday is whether the county should issue up to \$900,000 in general obligation bonds to finance site acquisition and construction of a library.

The county library celebrated its 10th anniversary in the Grafton Shopping Center in October.

Before locating there, the library was run by volunteers in a county house.

The library has just under 25,000 volumes in about 2,500

square feet of space.

Circulation reached a high of 130,000 volumes loaned last year. In July the library circulated more than the 10,000 loans in its first year at the shopping center site.

A library consultant, hired by the Friends of the York County Library, and library officials have proposed constructing a 11,000-square foot library to replace the existing library.

A library steering committee is seeking a 2½ to 3-acre site in the Grafton area, accessible to most people in the lower end of the county, for the new library.

A new library would provide additional services such as a separate reference area, a reading lounge for periodicals, a children's section, a local history and archive room and a community meeting room — services that cannot be provided in the current cramped space.

Each of the five county supervisors supports the referendum, saying its failure would probably stall development of a new library for a few years.

"(A bond issue) is the only way we can go," supervisor Rodgers

Smith said.

"We don't have any other finances and if it doesn't pass, the library will be dead for years to come."

Smith said passage may be "an uphill battle and the library board must convince the people a new library is a must for the referendum to pass.

"I'm voting for it all the way, but things are tough all over."

County officials estimate passing the bond issue would increase county property taxes by 2¼ cents per \$100 of assessed value next year, or about \$10 to \$20 for the average taxpayer.

The cost per resident would decrease over the 15 to 20-year life of the bonds as the principle and interest payments decrease.

The county budgeted \$127,639 for library services during this fiscal year.

Of that total, \$27,343 is contributed to the Williamsburg Regional Library to allow access for Bruton District residents of the County.

While referendum supporters say the added cost would increase tax bills by about the cost of one hardcover book per resident, per

year, they fear that residents will resist any tax increase.

Ralph Grimsley, past president of the York County Taxpayers Association, favors an expanded library, but disagrees with issuing bonds to finance it.

"Right now with interest rates as high as they are, I don't think the county should go out and borrow money," Grimsley said.

Grimsley favors a proposal advanced by the library board that calls for forming a committee to raise money to buy the site while the county sets aside about \$85,000 annually for three years and then issue bonds for the remainder of the cost.

Smith said the county cannot afford to set aside any money each year "because on our tight budget we don't have the dollars to set aside."

According to Mrs. Rogers, library officials have been speaking to county groups, and campaigning in the local media for the referendum.

During this time, she said, they have encountered little opposition to the bond issue.

"We had one group that told us

we could speak if we allowed the opposition to present their views also," Mrs. Rogers said.

"Somebody on the library board said 'OK. Where's the opposition?' I don't know, but if they're out there I hope they're non-voters," Mrs. Rogers added.

"While no organized opposition has come forth, Smith said, "that silent majority can be some kind of vocal at the polls."

Philip Wrenn, a vice president of the county taxpayers association, said while he intends to vote for the referendum, he believes it will fail because of county residents' general distrust of bond issue referendums.

"I don't think the referendum has a chance to pass because of overruns on other projects (financed with bond issues) such as the sewers," he said.

The county's \$13-million sewer system incurred a \$3 million cost overrun, which officials attribute to changing highway department requirements between the system's design and construction stages and rising interest costs during the construction.

The sewer system was partially financed with a \$6.5 million bond

issue approved in a July 1967 referendum.

County voters approved a \$1.2 million bond issue in June 1980 to finance acquisition and development of a new landfill site.

At the time supervisors said they would try to hold cost to under \$900,000.

County officials have budgeted about \$1 million for the project to date, but have not issued the bonds because they are waiting for bond market interest rates to fall to about 8 percent.

Supervisor Ben Rush believes county residents gave the supervisors a vote of confidence by supporting the landfill referendum and will trust this board to keep the library within cost estimates if the referendum passes.

"There's no question we need a library and I'm in favor of it (the referendum)," he said.

"But when you're singing to the tune of \$900,000, that's a lot."

If the \$900,000 bond issue is approved by voters it would raise the county's level of indebtedness to about \$25 million. The county's state-imposed debt ceiling is \$80 million.

This packet was sent, with a cover letter,  
to:

\* Charles Hartig  
Tom Bradshaw

, WVEC

Chris Dickon~~s~~, WHRO

Connie Allen, Pub. Service Dir., WAVY

\* Sherry Branon, WVEC

Tom Roland, Pub. Service Dir., WTKR

Sherry Branon interviewed Penny Nicholls,  
of the Library Board, and Ray Cobb, member of  
of the Library Steering Committee, on her  
morning TV program, "Good Morning, Tidewater."

Charles Hartig came to the Library with  
a camera crew to film his "editorial" within  
the Library. Unfortunately, the film was  
no good, so he broadcast the program from his  
WVEC studio, on October 26.



# YORK COUNTY LIBRARY REFERENDUM

1981

York County citizens will make a decision on November 3 on whether to build a new county library. A referendum on the ballot will ask if they approve a bond issue of \$900,000 for the construction of a new building for the library.

The present York County Library is in a small rented store-front facility in the Grafton Shopping Center, where it has been for ten years.

The library was originally a totally volunteer effort, organized by the York County Volunteer Association. It opened in 1968 in an old house on Route 17 in Grafton. When the library lost its lease, the County was asked to help. A vacant store in the shopping center was found, and the County agreed to pay for rent and utilities. (1971)

In the ten years since the library moved to the shopping center, York County has gradually increased support until it has become a fullfledged public library. In 1976 a Library Board was appointed, and the building was enlarged to nearly double its original size, so that it now contains 2500 sq. ft, an awkward 20' x 125'.

In those ten years, the book collection has grown from 4,400 to nearly 24,000. More significantly, circulation has risen from 14, 530 to 125,000 items checked out last year. Circulation in the month of July 1981 was greater than in the entire year of 1971. Membership continues to increase by several hundred every month. The library grows faster than the County population.

For several years the Library Board has explored possibilities to solve the problem of providing more space for the library. Since no satisfactory existing building is available, either for rent or for sale, there is no alternative to acquiring a site and constructing a new building. Several sites are under consideration in the central Grafton area; none has yet been selected. A library of 11,000 square feet is considered the minimum adequate size for the population served. It would provide space for more shelving and books, a separate children's area, adequate staff work space, more seating and study space, and a meeting room.

The \$900,000 asked for in the referendum is the minimum amount that will purchase a building site and construct a building of adequate size and quality. It is likely that a prefab building of some sort will be used, to keep costs at a minimum.

The bond issue would add about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents per \$100 to the real estate tax rate in the first year at current assessed valuations. As the principal is reduced each year, the tax rate will also be reduced. The bonds would be retired over a period of 15 to 20 years.

The Library plans to hold an Open House on Sunday, October 25, marking its tenth anniversary. It is hoped that county citizens who are not already library users will come to the open house to get acquainted, and to ask any questions they may have.

Library Board meetings are open to the public. They are held the second Tuesday each month at 7:30 in the Circuit Court jury room in the York County Courthouse. The Board does not meet at the library for obvious reasons--there isn't enough room.

residence. The hours are from 10:00 A.M. to noon-6 to 3 P.M. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 9 to 12 noon on Saturday. So come one- come all and take advantage of this new step forward in York County's history.

July 1968

## Opening Ceremony Saturday For York Volunteer Library

YORKTOWN — Raymond Sparer, president of the York Jaycees, will cut the ribbon during opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday at the newly established York Volunteer Library.

The library, sponsored by the York County Volunteer Association, will be the first facility of its kind in the county. There is no public library.

Albert Leslie, chairman of the volunteer association, will be master of ceremonies for the event. Also on the program will be Marshall Hughes of the NASA library at Langley Air Force Base, who is serving as consultant librarian to the volunteer library, and Mrs. E. T. Deskins, chairman of the library.

### Public Invited

Mrs. Deskins said approximately 100 invitations have been sent to organizations for the dedication ceremonies and said it is hoped many residents of the county will attend the public event.

"We have processed about 1,500 books since July and have received donations amounting to 2,500 books to date," she said.

"We have a great deal more processing to do and more book donations are expected in the future."

Mrs. Deskins said no books will be circulated Saturday, although members will be registered and cards presented to them with the assistance of the York High Keyettes, under the direction of Laura Blevins, president.

The library will receive a 1968 edition of the World Book encyclopedia and the volunteer association will issue certificates to volunteers for their contribution of work in establishing the library.

The library will officially begin circulation of books Monday and will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 6 to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Floral arrangements have been donated for the opening ceremonies by the Pincy Point Garden Club.

Mrs. Deskins said donations of money for the library may be made to the York Volunteer Association, Box 1206, Grafton.

"We hope to receive many more public and private dona-

tions of books," Mrs. Deskins said.

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Members of the committee include Mrs. Martin Panak, Mrs. William Foller and Mrs. Kenneth Beacham.

Tentative plans for the library include a children's story hour from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays.

Eventual goal of the organization is to join with libraries in other localities in the area in a regional library system with the support of the county.

# York Library Circulation Up

**By ROBERT GRAVES**  
 Daily Press Staff Reporter  
 YORKTOWN — The York  
 Public Library has

been "too successful" at its new location and work threatens to outdistance the efforts of volunteers.

Since the move from the old, frame structure at Route 17, near Dare Road, to the new quarters in the Grafton

Shopping Center July 1, the membership has more than doubled, according to Mrs. George S. Dudley, librarian.

The enrollment has climbed from 492 members to the current 1,032.

"We can't keep up with the additional work because of the increased duties," she commented.

"We have volunteers, but not enough, and there is an overdue problem. Books are so precious. But sometimes people do not bring them back."

The librarian commented that if enough personnel were available all the work could be done.

"There is always something for volunteers to do, but paid personnel are necessary to supervise the operation," she said.

Mrs. Dudley said there are a lot of books that haven't been put on display and are still in boxes and sacks.

"We don't have the manpower to process them," she said.

"During July, right after the move, the circulation of books doubled in comparison

with the same month the previous year."

She said the problems are multiplying now with the biggest need a second in command who could devote considerable time to the job.

While the library has a number of volunteers, the pool appears to be drying up.

"Many organizations and projects under way today are taking the volunteers," she said.

"The volunteers we have are giving many hours of work and have been faithful and hard working."

Mrs. Dudley said tentative plans are being considered for a fund-raising book fair at the library.

"It is hard to get public funds," she said. "The taxpayers are getting to the point where the funds are slowing up."

Mrs. Dudley said she has been hoping to establish a program to enable civic organizations and individuals to provide for an annual donation to support the library.

There are now 4,500 books in the library, processed and displayed on newly installed

shelves. There are another 1,000 or more books in boxes and on tables.

"Many of these will be discarded as unusable," she said.

"We just don't have the time to repair the books. It is either put them in the corner or give them to another organization. A number of the books being used in the York library are actually discards from other libraries, although they serve a useful purpose in getting the local library on its feet.

The new quarters provide about 1,500 square feet.

"We need money, furniture, volunteers, as well as new and old books," Mrs. Dudley said.

"There is a special need for donation of best sellers."

The York County Home Demonstration Clubs have donated a brand new card file for cataloguing the books, recently presented by Mrs. William C. Nettles, York vice president.

A grand opening for the new facility is being considered for October in conjunction with the Fall Festival at the shopping center.





# Library Problem Growing

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — Hoyt Galvin's voice has the tone and inflection of broadcaster Charles Kuralt, who, incidentally, covered the Charlotte, N.C., libraries while a reporter for a Charlotte newspaper when Galvin was the city's library administrator.

And Galvin, who has traveled from Maine to Puerto Rico as a library consultant, has Kuralt's wonderful talent for telling delightful tales. He shared a few of them at lighter moments during his four-hour meeting Monday with members of the York County library board.

But neither Galvin's library expertise nor storytelling abilities were needed as he began the meeting with one brief statement: "All you've got to do is walk into your building to know you've got a problem."

That problem is space. Or lack thereof.

The county library, sandwiched in a storefront between a liquor store and a dry cleaners in the Grafton Shopping Center, has only 2,500 square feet to call its own.

Standard formulas for library space versus service area population would call for about 17,500 square feet to meet the county's library needs based on estimates of 28,000 people in the library's service area, with an additional 7,000 people in the county's Bruton District served by the Williamsburg library.

Galvin doesn't set much stock in formulas, or "horseback figures," as he calls them. "We try to develop libraries according to the community's specific needs rather than some formula."

When the meeting was over Galvin and the board had tentatively arrived at plans for a 11,000 square foot library that could more adequately meet the need while reflecting the "bare bones" philosophy of county taxpayers who support the public services.

The figures were arrived at by library board and staff members who estimated the minimum acceptable space needs for various library functions and activities.

"It's pretty conservative. I don't think you'll find any spaces that are too big," Galvin said. "But (11,000 square feet) is a reflection of the county supervisors conservatism as reflected by the people here (at the meeting)."

Galvin will be in the county today collecting additional information and will then return home to prepare a report on the library's needs. His report is expected to be available to library and county officials in about two weeks.

Galvin said library costs are about \$50 per square foot for the building and \$6 per square foot for the shelves and furnishings.

Added to that would be about \$50,000 in architect's fees and the cost of buying a site for the library.

To be effective the library would have to be in Grafton, near the county's population center, near Route 17.

The cost of buying two to three acres of the prime property near Route 17 is unknown but \$30,000 an acre was one figure mentioned at Monday's meeting.

Library board members are convinced a bond issue referendum would be needed to finance all or most of the project. Galvin's report of the need will be used in a campaign to convince county voters a bond issue would be a good way to finance a good idea.

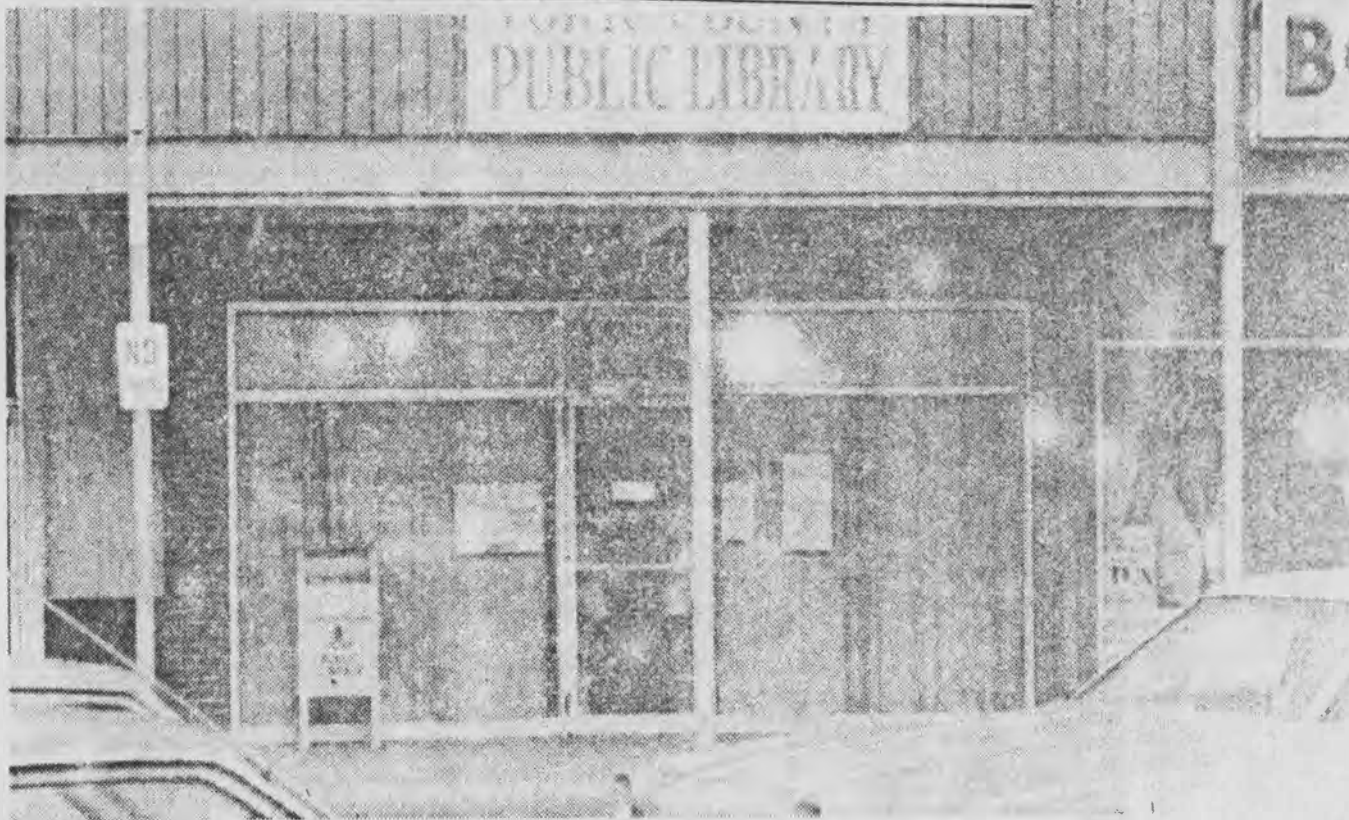
A steering committee, with a cross-section of county leaders, is being formed to help raise money for the site acquisition.

County librarian Beverly Dudley said there is no timetable set yet to ask the supervisors to hold a referendum or for a building program.

The county planning department was to conduct a library use survey but it was put on the back burner.

The Friends of the York County Library are sponsoring Galvin's trip and work which is estimated to cost about \$900. He is charging the library one-third of his regular fee.

The new library would house about 50,000 books — 30,000 more than now available in the library — a space for a multipurpose meeting room, expanded children's programs and periodicals.



Staff photo by JOE FUDY

The library in the Grafton Shopping Center has needed more space for years, residents believe.

## *New look for county library may be on the way in York*

By SUSAN HAYDEN

Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — The county library may be on its way to finding a new home, largely because of efforts by local residents.

A library consultant, Hoyt Galvin of Charlotte, N.C., will visit the library next week to begin work on a long-range plan for library services in the county.

That plan, says Librarian Beverly Dudley, could include a program for building a new library and perhaps recommendations for a site.

The county library, sandwiched in Grafton Shopping Center next to a Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board store, has been cramped for space for several years.

Last year, county officials talked of moving the library to the Garrison Building on Route 17, the current home of the county departments of Social Services and Health.

However, Library Board members decided that plan was only a stop-gap measure — they wanted a truly long-range solution.

County planning department staff members have intended to prepare a comprehensive plan for library service eventually, but too many higher-priority needs have kept the library project from being completed, says senior planning department member Kathy Messenger.

"I recognize their need for going ahead and getting something done," she says.

But the people most interested in library service — the Friends of York County Library and Library Board members — thought they could do some things on their own that would, at the least, get them moving in the right direction, says Library Board Chairman Elizabeth Rogers.

"We felt the climate was right" to start working on a plan for a new building, she added.

The consultant's stay here is being sponsored by Friends of York County Library, with some assistance from the library budget.

The consultant's initial work here, says Mrs. Rogers, will cost about \$900. Galvin is charging the groups only one-third of his usual fee, according to Mrs. Dudley.

He has produced library plans for other jurisdictions, including Portsmouth, she adds.

Before making his report, Galvin will look at county population, growth trends, current library services and what county residents want.

In addition to examining other statistical data, he will also look at a survey prepared by the county planning staff. The survey will be distributed in October to gather statistical information on the need for library services.

February 11, 1981

# Money Sought For York Library

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — Yellow usually marks a transition from go to stop, but supporters of a new York County public library sought to reverse that tradition using yellow cards to urge the county to go ahead with the library project.

An unusually large turnout of about 50 people attended a public hearing conducted by county administrator John Richardson on possible uses of the \$475,000 the county is expected to receive in federal revenue sharing funds for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1.

And many of the people at the hearing, including supervisors Rodgers Smith, Shirley Cooper and E.S. Bingley Jr., sported bright yellow, homemade lapel cards announcing their support of a new county library.

County school Superintendent Donald Bruno led the call Tuesday for using the money for the library.

"One of the hallmarks of any great culture has always been the inclusion of a resource place called a library," Bruno said.

He was followed by other speakers, most affiliated with either the county school system or a library volunteer or

auxiliary group, who pointed out the inadequacies of the York County library and the need for an adequate library in the county.

Seventeen people spoke at the hearing and 12 others submitted requests on a form provided at the meeting.

The county library is crammed into 2,500 square feet of space in the Grafton Shopping Center.

A consultant hired by the Friends of the York County Library has recommended a new library building of at least 11,000 square feet to meet the minimum acceptable needs of the county.

The county library was started as a volunteer effort in 1968 and has since grown to its current size and location.

Library board chairman Elizabeth Rogers, who along with volunteers was distributing the "library cards" before the meeting, said an effort was made to bring the library needs before the administrator at the hearing because of the planning commission and planning department's exclusion of support for the library in their recently completed capital improvements plan.

"We've been cut out of the budget for the last three years," Mrs. Rogers said after the meeting. "We felt we had to come before them now to tell them

our feelings and show there were others who felt the same."

Some of the library supporters said it would not be unreasonable to commit the entire \$475,000 in revenue sharing money to the library this year, but others asked only for at least a portion of the money.

The library recommended in the consultant's report would cost about \$1 million, including purchasing the property.

While the library got the most vocal support it was not the only, or necessarily most pressing need, other residents said.

"I'm in sympathy with the library and other requested needs," Ken Pierpoint said. "But public health is the greatest need in the county. There are areas in the county where people do not have safe water," he continued in reference to the Lackey community, among others.

"Public safety and public health (considerations) far exceed recreation, cultural and pleasure needs of the county. We would be remiss if we don't take care of public health needs," Pierpoint said.

Lawrence Churchill, a Lackey resident and member of the county leisure

services advisory board, spoke in favor of the public water system in Lackey and added a plea for restrooms at the Charles E. Brown Park in Lackey.

Churchill said the lack of restrooms at the park represents a "hideous situation" and said he has advised the leisure services board that if restrooms cannot be provided, the park should be closed.

His feelings were echoed by Estelle Redcross who lives near the park.

Other needs spoken of during the meeting included requests for improving playgrounds and recreation equipment at county schools and providing social and leisure facilities for elderly county residents.

The information brought forward at the hearing will be used by Richardson and the supervisors in preparation of the county budget for fiscal year 1982.

The \$475,000 the county is anticipating in revenue sharing funds is about \$150,000 more than it received last year.

Revenue sharing money can be used to finance capital projects or for general fund requirements. The federal revenue sharing program was begun in 1972 as a way to return some federal tax receipts to localities.

9/81 Library has not, & does not expect to receive any revenue-sharing funds.



# York To Vote On New Library

By DAVID GADDIS SMITH

Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — A referendum to build an 11,000-square-foot library may be held on Election Day in November as a result of a 1,278-signature petition presented to the York County Board of Supervisors on Thursday.

Betty Rogers, chairman of the county's library board, presented the petition to the supervisors Thursday and said the board estimated the cost of the new library would be \$875,000.

She said that figure could be lower if a prefabricated building were used.

The supervisors agreed to discuss the matter at their June 25 meeting at 7 p.m.

"The only question now is just how much money will be involved," Shirley Cooper, supervisors chairman, said after the meeting.

The board also agreed to an exchange of land so that the badly needed new county landfill can be put to use.

The board voted to give the John S. Gray family \$46,500 and 4.6 acres of vacant land located next to the landfill on Goodwin Neck Road in exchange for another three acres that has a house on it.

The supervisors plan to put a road on the three-acre site, which also is adjacent to the landfill.

The location originally planned for the road is on the 4.6 acre tract. But it was decided that tract would be dangerous because it is on a curve and intersects with Lotz Drive.

The landfill could be opened as soon as six months after the Gray family agrees to the exchange.

The board also voted to charge private concessioners \$50 a day to sell their wares during the bicentennial of

the British surrender at Yorktown celebration Oct. 16 to 19 and during Fourth of July celebrations.

The fee would be waived for all non-profit organizations whose main meeting place is in York County.

The board also changed sewer rate fees for sanitary district No. 1 customers. New residential rates are \$35 per quarter, up from \$25 per quarter.

Connection fees for single-family residences would be \$1,750 each.

Up to 50 percent of the cost of the connection fee could be eliminated if sewers are installed to serve each lot in a residential subdivision.

The supervisors also tabled a vote on a resolution to recommend that the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board deny a convenience store on the Yorktown waterfront a license to sell takeout wine and beer.

Two supervisors appeared to be in favor of the resolution and two appeared to be against it.

Supervisor E.S. Bingley was absent.

Supervisor Tabb Smith said he didn't want the county to get involved in the license application of Mike's Convenience Store of 62 Water St.

"Let the state exercise its responsibility," Smith said, adding that if the board commented on this application, it might end up having to comment on all future applications.

Mrs. Cooper, who voted against the motion to table along with Ben Rush, disagreed.

She said allowing the store to sell beer and wine "will make our job harder to enforce our no-alcohol ordinance on the (Yorktown) beach."

The store is operated by Michael Shields.

# Citizen News

Vol II No 3

YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

FALL 1981

## Voters Will Decide LIBRARY BONDS-YES OR NO?

On November 3 York citizens will have the opportunity to vote on whether \$900,000 in general obligation bonds should be issued to build a public library.

The Library Board, unable to find an existing building of proper size and location, requested the assistance of the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors determined that a referendum should be scheduled to let citizens decide whether to build a library and the Circuit Court has signed an order calling for a referendum.

### WHAT A YES VOTE MEANS

If a majority of voters says YES, a building of about 11,000 square feet would be built in the Grafton area, on or near Route 17. The building would provide new services, including a separate reference area, a reading lounge for periodicals, a children's area for storytelling and educational activities, a local history and archive room, and a community meeting room.

The bond issue would add about 2½ cents per \$100 to the real estate tax rate in the first year at current assessed valuations. The principal will be reduced each year and therefore the interest will be reduced and its effect on the tax rate will parallel that reduction. The bonds would be retired over a period of 15-20 years and current interest rates are 10%.

The County's current indebtedness is approximately \$24 million. The debt ceiling allowed by State law for York County is approximately \$80 million.

The bonds would provide funds for construction (about \$60 per square foot), site acquisition and preparation, utilities extension and furnishings, according to the Library Board.

### WHAT A NO VOTE MEANS

If the majority of voters says NO, the Library Board indicates that the library probably will remain in the rented Grafton Shopping Center storefront where space for new books will run out within a year.

"Increasing membership is putting pressure on the collection and services and may cause some curtailment in the future," said Library Board Chairman Elizabeth Rogers.

Librarian Beverly Dudley says the current 20-foot by 125-foot facility has no area for quiet study or periodicals and the lack of a separate area for children's programs causes conflicts with adult use of the library.

### STATE LIBRARY GUIDELINES

Virginia Library Guidelines recommend .6 square feet of library space per capita (21,000 square feet for York), or nearly 10 times the current library space. A professional library consultant has recommended a minimum of 11,000 square feet, which is the size of the proposed library.

### YORK LIBRARY GROWTH

York's library houses 25,000 items with a circulation last year of 125,000 items, an increase of 18,000 over the previous year's circulation. About 200 members join the library each month, according to library statistics.

### Register and Vote

To be eligible to vote in the November 3 general election and referendum, be sure to register by October 3 at the Voter Registrar's new office location in the Courts and Office Center, Yorktown.



LIBRARY REFERENDUM - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHY DO WE NEED A NEW LIBRARY -- ISN'T THE PRESENT ONE ADEQUATE?

We need a new library for three main reasons. First, the present one will run out of book space in about a year and the size of the collection will still be well below the number recommended for a population the size of York County's. Second, because of space restrictions, it cannot provide the full range of library services normally expected. And, third, the present building is rented. The increasing rental costs could be used by the county to build equity in a building of its own.

2. I KNOW OUR LIBRARY HAS LIMITATIONS, BUT WHY CAN'T I KEEP GOING TO GRISSOM AND NORTH-HAMPTON WHEN I NEED SOMETHING ELSE. YORK COUNTY RESIDENTS CAN USE THOSE LIBRARIES WITHOUT CHARGE SINCE THE HAMPTON, NEWPORT NEWS AND YORK COUNTY LIBRARIES PRESENTLY HAVE A RECIPROCAL NO-FEE BORROWING ARRANGEMENT?

This is a good arrangement and we hope it will continue, but is it right that York County citizens depend on tax payers in other areas to carry more of the library burden than they do? Additionally, with the sharply increased cost of transportation, plus the time involved, it is not always feasible to go to another library.

3. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SERVICES NOT OFFERED NOW THAT COULD BE OFFERED IN A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING?

The children's programs would be much improved. There would be a separate area for the children, with space enough for story telling, crafts, special programs, etc., without disturbing other areas of the library.

Magazines -- both for research and for pleasure -- would be added to the collection. Our world changes daily now, and often the only way to provide up-to-date information is with periodicals (journals and magazines).

York County is rich in history, and the public library is the best place to preserve valuable documents and artifacts, as well as genealogical records. We must be able to provide safe storage for these valuable items by means of a separate, secured room. The library would provide a community meeting room for a wide range of purposes. Library programs of all types could be offered -- movies, speakers, crafts and classes, to name a few. This room could also be offered to community groups (free, or for a nominal utilities charge) for their meetings.

The study and reference area, instead of being in the center of activity as it is now, would be set apart with proper conditions for study.

The present number of books in the library is about 20,000. The planned new building would allow an increase to about 50,000 books.

4. YOU'RE ASKING FOR \$900,000 FOR AN 11,000 sq. ft. BUILDING. THAT IS OVER \$80 A SQUARE FOOT. ISN'T THAT MUCH TOO HIGH?

It certainly would be if it represented construction costs alone. The construction costs have been set at \$60 per square foot -- a moderate amount in today's market. Other items are included in the amount asked for such as:

- the cost of the site
- the cost of preparing the site, including the parking lot
- Architectural and engineering fees
- the cost to extend utilities
- the cost of handling and selling the bonds
- additional furnishings



5. WHY A BOND REFERENDUM, WHY NOT JUST PAY FOR IT AND GET IT OVER WITH?

The York County Board of Supervisors has decided that a referendum is the fair way to proceed. Not only will the decision to build be left up to the voters; but the tax burden will be spread out and paid for by those residing in the county over the term of the bond, rather than just the first year or two.

6. I CAN'T QUITE RELATE TO THAT. EXACTLY HOW WILL MY YEARLY TAXES BE AFFECTED?

At the present time it would cost each household about the cost of a hard back book.

7. IF WE BUILD A NEW LIBRARY, WON'T THAT MEAN ADDING A BUNCH OF NEW EMPLOYEES TO THE COUNTY PAYROLL?

Not at all. New staff, if any, would be kept to a minimum. Present plans are to add only a children's librarian and a clerk. Volunteers will still be used as long as they can be recruited. Other staff would be added in the future only as necessary to give adequate service.

8. ISN'T THERE ANY STATE OR FEDERAL MONEY AVAILABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION?

Sorry -- there is federal legislation for library construction still on the books, but no funds have been appropriated since 1973. Revenue sharing funds can be used for library construction, but their use is determined by the local governing bodies. The York County Public Library receives state aid funds, but these are insufficient and unavailable for library construction purposes.

9. WHY DON'T WE SIMPLY EXPAND ONE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND HAVE IT BE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY?

There are a number of reasons. None of the high schools are in a location central to the county population. Additionally, school libraries support the curriculum, while public libraries are for everyone from the young to the aged. Also, leadership and budget problems might prove worrisome if not insurmountable.

10. WHAT IS A BOND?

By definition, a bond is a certificate of debt issued by a government or corporation, guaranteeing payment of the original investment plus interest by a specified future date. Bonds are a form of long time borrowing to finance public facilities. Bond financing makes it possible to spread the cost over a number of years while building at today's prices. Without bonds, facilities would have to be financed with current income -- current year's taxes.

11. HOW LARGE IS AN 11,000 SQUARE FOOT FACILITY?

About the size of the York County School Board/Administration office on Dare Road.

12. WHAT IF, IN TEN YEARS, YOU DECIDE YOUR NEW LIBRARY IS TOO SMALL? OR, WHAT IF YOU DECIDE YOU NEED MORE SPACE TO HOUSE A BOOKMOBILE COLLECTION? WILL YOU COME BACK AND TELL US YOU NEED ANOTHER NEW LIBRARY?

No. The building we are asking for will be planned so that it can be expanded if necessary.

13. WHY SHOULD I VOTE "YES" FOR THE LIBRARY REFERENDUM IF I LIVE IN THE BRUTON AREA?

The Library Board is committed to providing adequate library service to all citizens of York County. Passing of the referendum would expand that service to residents of the lower end of the county.

YORK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

10-YEAR CIRCULATION GROWTH

July, 1981: 14,783 total for month

Fiscal Year 1971-72      14,581 total for year

NEWS ITEM FOR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

York County's 36,000 population is served by a public library that is housed in a small narrow store in the Grafton Shopping Plaza off Rt. 17.

Ten years of service and an expanded book collection cannot be contained much longer within this rented space. Patrons have requested a separate childrens' room, study space, a reference section, storage for magazines and shelves to house special collections of historical, business and garden books.

The York County Public Library Board petitioned the Board of Supervisors to have a Bond Referendum question on the Nov. 3rd Election Ballot.

A "Yes" vote will allow a \$900,000 bond issue to purchase a site, build and furnish a new library building that will serve York County for 15 to 20 years.

The Bond Referendum will only cost the taxpayer's family the equivalent of the price of a hardback fiction book each year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Comment - If this release does not arrive in time to be included in your newsletter, copies can be made available for distribution at your next meeting. Call requests to the Projects Coordinator.

Newsletters were sent to County school PTA's,  
League of Women Voters

NEWSLETTER



# editorial

October 26, 1981

All the hoopla surrounding the successful Yorktown Bicentennial Celebration has overshadowed an extremely important issue in York County, one which has received very little publicity.

On Election Day, November 3rd, County voters will be asked to approve a \$900,000 bond referendum. The money would be used to purchase land and build a new public library.

For the past ten years, the library has been housed in the Grafton Shopping Center on Route 17. It occupies only 2,500 square feet of space. The shelves are packed. In fact, the problem is so critical that this store front operation could run out of available book space in less than a year.

In our opinion, a new facility is desperately needed. It would enable the library board to expand its programs and services to better meet the needs of this growing county. We believe \$900,000 is a small price to pay for a library in which the citizens of this community can take great pride. We urge the people of York County to go to the polls on Election Day and vote "YES" for the bond referendum. A new public library would be a sound investment in the County's future. I'm Charles Hartig and this has been a Channel 13 Editorial.



# *Library Referendum*

SHALL YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTRACT  
A DEBT AND ISSUE ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$900,000 PURSUANT TO  
THE PUBLIC FINANCE ACT, AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE  
FUNDS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS, TO  
FINANCE THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING  
A LIBRARY, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION OF  
LAND THEREFORE.



Staff photo by DAVID PICKEL

**Amanda McLean hands out a sketch pad urging support for a library bond in York.**

# Water, York library bonds approved

Peninsula voters said "yes" Tuesday to a trio of referendum proposals and returned to office several unopposed candidates for ties constitutional offices.

## Water bonds

Newport News voters, by a nearly 3-1 margin, approved issuing \$16.46 million in city general obligation bonds to finance improvements to the Newport News Waterworks system in Tuesday's election.

The vote was 18,263 for the bonds and 6,519 against.

Charlie Crowder, director of public utilities for the city, said today, "We're pleased with the support of our waterworks system by citizens of Newport News. We remain dedicated to the future development and orderly growth of the system."

The improvements to the system are part of the long-range development plan approved in 1978.

The projects include:

- 43,000 linear feet of 48-inch raw water lines from Little Creek Reservoir to Lee Hall Treatment Plant. Cost is estimated at \$7.1 million.

- Construction of a pump station and 2-million-gallon storage facility in the Mercury Boulevard

-LaSalle Avenue area. Cost is \$2.3 million.

- Installation of nearly four miles of 48-inch treated water main lines from the Oyster Point area to Big Bethel Road. Cost is \$3.5 million.

- Construction of a 500,000-gallon storage tank in Poquoson, cost is estimated at \$900,000.

- Construction of wastewater lagoons at the Lee Hall and Harwoods Mill treatment plants. Cost is estimated at \$3 million.

City officials sought voter approval of the bond issue in order to get lower interest rates on the package, reducing the cost of financing over the 20-year payback period.

Officials estimated \$2 million could be saved if voters approved the plan.

## York library

Elizabeth Rogers, chairman of the York County Library Board, says she's relieved and gratified that voters approved a bond referendum that authorizes the county to borrow up to \$900,000 in general obligation bonds to purchase property and pay for construction of a new building.

The final vote was 4,165 in favor to 3,248 against selling the bonds;

many of the negative ballots were cast by voters in Election District 1 outside the city limits of Williamsburg, where voters would be more likely to use the Williamsburg Regional Library.

In most other areas, the referendum passed easily.

County officials and the Library Board need to settle on a site for the new facility, which will be located somewhere along Route 17 near the Grafton area, as well as hire architects and engineers to design the facility.

It will probably be 18 months to two years before a new library actually opens, says Alan J. Farling, the county's director of public works.

Some supervisors already have a site in mind for the library, a 12-acre tract they recently purchased for \$50,000 north of Grafton on Route 17 near Old York-Hampton Highway.

Library officials haven't officially decided on a site, however; several are known to prefer smaller, more expensive sites more centrally located in Grafton.

Mrs. Rogers attributes the success of the referendum to attempts by library supporters to "meet with as many small groups as possible."

But she says that she's sur-

prised that the referendum passed so easily.

"Although we didn't have any organized opposition," she says "It was very difficult to get feedback from concerned and unconcerned citizens."

Fewer voters cast ballots in the bond referendum than in the gubernatorial election.

## Mayor election

Hampton voters decided Tuesday they will elect the city's next mayor and not have City Council do it.

By more than three to one, voters approved a city charter amendment allowing direct election of the mayor.

But fewer than half the people voting Tuesday in other races on the Hampton ballot cast votes on the mayor-election procedure. Of 28,958 who turned out, 8,754 voted for the amendment and 2,534 voted against.

Some voters say the amendment's location at the top of the ballot made it hard to find. But Albert Ward, a city Electoral Board member, says he thinks many voters concentrated so much on the candidate races they simply forgot or missed the mayoral question.

The amendment was approved overwhelmingly in all but two of the city's 18 precincts. It passed by only one vote in Phenix and was voted down in Pembroke. Both precincts are predominantly black, and the Hampton Crusade for Voters, a group trying to unite black voters, had urged the amendment be defeated.

## Constitutional officers

Most of the constitutional officers in Newport News, Hampton and Poquoson had the kind of campaign all politicians want — they ran without opposition.

In Newport News, Sheriff Clay Hester, City Treasurer John Patterson, Commissioner of Revenue C. B. Harrell and Commonwealth's Attorney Willard Robinson have been returned to office.

In Hampton, Democrats Christopher Hutton, Taylor Wilson Jr. and Otis Johnson were elected, respectively, to the offices of Commonwealth's Attorney, commissioner of revenue and treasurer. All were unopposed.

In Poquoson, independents John Dressler and Frances Firth, also unopposed, were re-elected to the offices of commissioner of revenue and treasurer.



CALL-IN RESULTS

PRECINCTS	YES	NO
Bethel	305	219
<del>Clinton</del>		
Dare	473	303
Harris Grove	741	396
Harwood's Mill	680	477
W McGruder	417	177
Nelson	502	324
W Queen's Lake	269 606	374 419
Seaford		126
Tabb	127	
W Waller Mill	231	257

W <del>Penniman</del>	111	277
	3213 269 3482	2498 374 2872
	4162	3249

## How York County Passed a Library Bond Referendum

Although the discussion of a bond referendum for a new library, and the drive to get it passed was a matter of a few months' duration, the need for a library, and a great deal of publicity concerning that need, had been growing for a long time.

The only citizens groups who actively participated in the campaign to pass a bond referendum were the Library Board itself, the Friends of the Library, the library staff and some of its volunteers, if they can be called a citizens group, and members of a committee appointed by the Library Board initially for the purpose of fund raising. Some civic groups and local clubs invited Library Board members to speak on the subject of the referendum.

All local newspapers and community newsletters were extremely supportive, and the Library Board and staff took advantage of every opportunity to point out the crowded conditions of the existing library and the need for a new one, in newspaper articles and interviews.

The Library Board had at first planned to raise funds for the purchase of property, after which the county would be asked to fund a library building. County Supervisors suggested instead that a bond referendum be held to finance the whole project, if they could be shown that enough citizen support could be garnered to pass a referendum.

Therefore, the first part of the campaign involved obtaining sufficient signatures on a petition to ask for a bond referendum for a library. Library Board members, Friends of the Library, and volunteers took the petition door-to-door; it was circulated in a Friends newsletter, and patrons were able to sign petitions at the Library. A sufficient number of signatures was quickly obtained, and the Supervisors asked the Court to put the referendum on the November ballot.

Once the referendum was assured, a publicity campaign was launched, to explain the referendum, the need for a new library, the poor conditions of the existing library, and the benefit to be derived by all citizens by a new one.

Again, a Friends newsletter and a Library newsletter were issued. A Library Open House was held to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary, and to persuade non-patrons to come to see for themselves what was needed. Board members offered to speak, and were invited to a number of clubs and associations. They organized a float for the York High School homecoming parade. Friends had printed bright yellow memo pads with the motto "Books build minds; people build libraries." News items were sent to community newsletters, and a packet containing the history of the library and pertinent information sent to all local TV newsrooms and talk shows. Two of those had results: Board members were interviewed on a talk show and Charles Hartig broadcast an "Editorial" supporting the library referendum.

Library staff members mounted displays in store windows in several shopping centers on the theme "What does the library have for you?" The Friends took out an ad in the York Town Crier: "Vote Yes for the Library Nov. 3." Library patrons were asked to help pay for the ad, and add their signatures to it. Enough signatures were garnered to pay for a ~~4~~<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-page ad. Many individual members of the Friends, and other library patrons wrote letters to the editors of all the local newspapers.

Finally, on voting day, Board members were at the polling places with signs and memo pads to give out. The referendum passed, with a good majority.

Feb 4, 1982

# Library stalled by location squabble

by Bill Sizemore  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN — Construction of a new York County public library, for which county voters approved a \$900,000 bond issue last fall, has been stalled by a disagreement over where to put it.

The issue came to a head last Thursday during an hour-long closed-door session of the county board of supervisors with Penny Nichols, chairwoman of the county library board.

Mrs. Nichols presented the library board's unanimous recommendation that the new library be built on a two-acre site on Route 17 next to Heritage Square Shopping Center.

Several of the supervisors, however, are leaning toward putting it on one of two sites already owned by the county in the vicinity of the new county dump

off Goodwin Neck Road.

The supervisors deferred action on the matter until they can get a firmer estimate of the cost of buying and preparing the library board's preferred site.

Mrs. Nichols, who had hoped the board would act on the matter last week, emerged from the meeting hopeful that a vote can be taken at the supervisors' next regular meeting Thursday, March 4.

But Supervisor Tabb Smith, one of those most skeptical of the library board proposal, said after the meeting he doubts the needed information can be put together that fast.

"I won't support a site just because the library board says it's right," Smith said. "They don't have any firm figures."

He said he wants to see an independent appraisal of the site's worth and detailed estimates of site preparation

costs, including extension of utilities.

Smith said he won't vote for the site until it's shown to be more cost-effective than the two county-owned sites.

"Even though you had \$900,000 approved," he said, "that doesn't mean you've got to spend \$900,000."

Mrs. Nichols, obviously frustrated by the delay, expressed confidence the library board will be able to support its recommendation. "We feel that we have done our homework thoroughly," she said.

Mrs. Nichols said the library board hopes county residents will contact their supervisors over the next week and urge them to move ahead with the project at the March 4 meeting.

She said the board's preferred site meets all applicable criteria of the American Library Association and a consultant hired by the board two years ago.

Chief among those criteria are location near the geographical center of the population to be served and proximity to a shopping area.

The board's chosen site is near the center of the Grafton-Tabb area, the county's most densely populated section and the area primarily served by the county's only existing library, a small storefront facility in Grafton Shopping Center.

The wooded parcel chosen by the library board is situated across the Heritage Square access road from Big Star supermarket and is served by public water, sewer and storm drainage, Mrs. Nichols said this week.

The site is owned by York Development Corp., represented by local developer George Garrison. The tentative price to the county is \$80,000.

A major factor in the board's choice,

Mrs. Nichols said, was the fact that development compatible with a library is already planned for adjacent property. Construction of a medical building with offices for up to seven doctors is scheduled to start later this spring on a parcel next-door, she said, and a townhouse complex is planned for later development on nearby Ella Taylor Road that would include housing for the elderly and handicapped and a covered walkway to the shopping center.

To argue against the board's site on grounds that it's not now county-owned is spurious, Mrs. Nichols said, because land-purchase costs will be charged against the library bond issue whether the library is built on county property or not.

The supervisors have had two county-owned sites under consideration for the library, both adjacent to the new

county dump. One fronts on Goodwin Neck Road, the other on Old York-Hampton Road.

Questioned about the purchase cost of the latter site, Mrs. Nichols said, "We haven't gone into it much because we don't want it."

And, she said, the library board is even less enthusiastic about the Goodwin Neck Road site.

That assessment conflicts sharply with a report given to the supervisors three weeks ago by county public works director Al Farling, who is pushing the Goodwin Neck Road site. Farling said the library board prefers that site to the Old York-Hampton Road location.

Neither of the county-owned sites is acceptable to the board, Mrs. Nichols said, chiefly because they are in relatively isolated, low-traffic areas.



# York Library Referendum Passes

By **DAVID GIBSON**  
Staff Reporter

**YORKTOWN** — Although voters with access to Williamsburg's library voted no, the majority of York County voters Tuesday were in favor of a bond issue to finance a new public library in Grafton.

The \$900,000 library bond issue referendum passed 4,165 to 3,248 despite a 808 to 611 vote against the library by Bruton District voters. Bruton residents have access to the Williamsburg Regional Library.

"It sounds very, very good to me," said York Library Board Chairman Elizabeth Rogers after

hearing the referendum results Tuesday.

"I was sure it would be fairly close," Mrs. Rogers said of the vote. "I didn't think we would get much positive response in the upper end of the county."

One precinct in the lower end of the county, however, came close to rejecting the question. The Tabb precinct favored the referendum by only a vote of 127 to 126.

"We felt that in the (extreme) lower end of the county the people might have a Newport News and Hampton orientation and might not support the library," Mrs. Rogers said.

Of the 9,317 county residents

who voted, 7,413 cast ballots on the library issue. Some 63.7 percent of the county's 14,630 registered voters came out election day.

Passage of the referendum paves the way for site acquisition and construction of a 11,000-square-foot library in the Grafton area to replace the 2,500-square-foot library the county now leases in the Grafton Shopping Center.

All five county supervisors had individually supported the library referendum.

Mrs. Rogers, who has served on the county's library board since it was organized in 1977, said of the referendum results, "My satisfaction (from the results) comes be-

cause it shows to me we have a good core of users who felt it (the library) was a service they wanted to continue. I have great hopes for the future."

The current library has been operating out of its present location for 10 years.

Supporters of the referendum were concerned that while residents concede the present library's space is very cramped, the majority of the voters might not be willing to pay the price right now for a more adequate library.

County officials estimate the passage of the referendum will raise homeowners' tax bills by from \$10 to \$20 annually.

## Library Cards

**GRAFTON** — York County Public Library patrons will have their library cards renewed as materials are checked out during February.

The renewal process consists of checking to see if patrons have outstanding fines or long overdue books. After March 1 only renewed cards may be used to check out material.

DAILY PRESS  
2/11/82

# York asked to put library on Route 17

By SUSAN HAYDEN

Times-Herald Staff Writer

**YORK** — The county's Library Board has requested that the Board of Supervisors purchase a two-acre site on Route 17 near Heritage Square Shopping Center for a new library building.

Acquisition of property for a library was a major subject of a two-hour executive session supervisors held as part of their Thursday meeting.

The site, estimated to cost about \$80,000, is the unanimous first choice of the Library Board, Chairwoman Penny Nichols said after the session.

She had hoped supervisors would take immediate action on the request.

Instead, however, supervisors requested more information on the site, including a formal appraisal. They plan to take final action at their March 4 meeting.

Supervisor Shirley Cooper said she supported the request and would have been ready for a vote last night.

But last fall, supervisors agreed to buy an 11-acre site on Old York-Hampton Highway as a possible site for the new library.

One supervisor, Tabb Smith, is concerned that a new, two-acre site for \$80,000 or more would cost too much money, especially since supervisors were able to purchase 11 acres at the Old York-Hampton Highway site for only \$50,000.

He wants to see the appraisal before making a decision, but he believes most taxpayers would prefer to travel a little further out of their way if they knew the county was spending less money.

A different site was suggested earlier this month when county staff members suggested using about four acres on Goodwin Neck Road, currently slated for an entrance to the county's new landfill as the place to build a new library, switching the landfill entrance to the site on Old York Hampton Highway.

Mrs. Nichols said Library Board members oppose both those sites because they are too far away from population centers in the lower end of the county.

Residents in the Bruton areas of the county are served by Williamsburg Regional Library.

Library Board members argue that voters approved the \$900,000 general obligation bonds to include funds for acquisition of a site.

If the library is placed on the Goodwin Neck Road site, some library bond money would have to be transferred to reimburse funds spent for the land that were provided by the sale of bonds for the landfill, Mrs. Nichols said.

County staff members will compile a summary of all sites considered so far by the Library Board for supervisors to review.

## York Library Site Not Chosen

By DAVID GIBSON

Staff Reporter

**YORKTOWN** — Selection of a site for the new York County library, an issue library board members had hoped to settle at Thursday's county supervisors meeting, is at least two weeks away.

York library board chairman Pencilia Nichols met for about an hour in closed session with supervisors, lobbying for an approximately two-acre site near the Heritage Square Shopping Center.

The site, which library officials estimate would cost about \$85,000,

is the unanimous choice of the five-member library board.

Supervisor Shirley Cooper is one board member in favor of the library board's selection, but other supervisors say they need more information.

Supervisor Tabb Smith said while he respects the library board's recommendation, he has not been presented with enough documentation to vote for the Heritage Square location.

Supervisors also are considering alternate sites near the site of the new county landfill, which will be located off Goodwin Neck Road, further north on Route 17 from the

Heritage Square site. One of the proposed library sites would be off Goodwin Neck Road at an area originally proposed for a landfill entrance while the other site is located off Old York-Hampton Highway in an area behind the Yorktown Brass Shop on Route 17.

After meeting with the supervisors, Mrs. Nichols expressed disappointment that a library site was not selected Thursday on the basis of the library board's recommendation. She said she hoped the supervisors would be able to make a decision at their next regular meeting in two weeks.

Tabb Smith said he needs cost

comparisons on the sites under consideration, plus additional information such as the cost of extending utilities to the system and providing proper drainage. He said it might take more than two weeks for the information to be made available.

The current county library operates out of a 2,500-square-foot storefront in the Grafton Shopping Center. Last year voters approved a \$900,000 general revenue bond issue to finance property acquisition and development of a 11,000-square-foot library to better serve the county's needs.

Daily Press  
2/19/82

# Crier. Mar. 4, 1982 Let's build a library

We hope there will be a quick resolution of the present impasse over where to put York County's new library.

It's now been four months since county voters decided, by a substantial margin, that the need for a new library was so pressing as to justify the sale of \$900,000 in general obligation bonds for its construction.

Since then there's been plenty of talk about the project in the county's official circles, but precious little action.

The latest hangup resulted two weeks ago, when the library board presented its unanimous choice for the new library's location to the board of supervisors.

Unhappily, the library board's site choice didn't match up with the supervisors'. Several of the county fathers, it seems, think the library would fit in just fine on one of several parcels of land the county owns adjacent to the new county dump.

Not surprisingly, that idea doesn't sit too well with library board members, who find the juxtaposition of a library and a dump incompatible.

The library board's preferred site, just off Route 17 next to Heritage Square Shopping Center, meets a series of rigorous tests set up by the American Library Association and the board's own consultant. Among the major criteria are location near the center of the population to be served and proximity to a high-traffic area such as a shopping center.

The library board has spent the better

## Editorial

part of two years on its search, and efforts should not be taken lightly the supervisors.

Some critics of the library board choice are bandying about the argument that using one of the sites already owned by the county would save the taxpayers money because it would be "free."

The argument is spurious. There's no such thing as a free lunch, or a free piece of land; at some point, past or future taxpayers will foot the bill for whatever site is chosen.

There is also the question of value. If one site is, by some objective standard clearly more suitable for a library than another, it may actually be the more cost-effective site even though its price tag is higher.

Don't get us wrong; we're not saying the county should blindly follow the library board's lead. Perhaps there are persuasive arguments on the other side. But if there are, we — and the citizens — haven't been made privy to them, because the supervisors' deliberations have all been carried out behind closed doors.

We respectfully suggest it's time to open the doors, and to move forward with this important project.

## Reader likes board site

Crier:

For those patrons of the York County Library who have been eagerly awaiting the decision on a site for the new library facility, there is good news. After a year of careful research, the Library Advisory Board has chosen a centralized, accessible location near Heritage Square Shopping Center.

One would hope that the county Board of Supervisors will approve their decision speedily so that construction on the new library may proceed.

Priscilla Seals  
Edgehill

## Letters

*Times-Herald*  
**Look for sites?  
We already did  
librarians say**

By SUSAN HAYDEN

*Times-Herald Staff Writer*

YORK — The county Board of Supervisors told a perplexed Library Board Thursday to reconsider 37 sites along Route 17 for a location for a new county library.

The request seems a little like a "slap in the face," Library Board Chairman Penny Nichols.

But she says Library Board members have already rowed the list down to about 15 and plan to have three selected in order of preference when supervisors meet Thursday.

Library Board members are perplexed by the request because they presented supervisors with their unanimous first choice for a library site two weeks ago. That location is two acres near Heritage Square Shopping Center at R 17 and Lakeside Drive, east of Grafton. The cost of that site would be about \$80,000.

But supervisors apparently believed they needed more information before making a decision.

Some supervisors also have been pushing a county-owned site for the library because it would be cheaper than the county in the long run.

But that site, on Old York-Hampton Highway, doesn't appeal to Library Board members.

Supervisors spent about 30 minutes of a two-hour session Thursday in discussions with Library Board members.

Mrs. Nichols says there may be one or two new sites that look promising, including one proposal to be presented by real estate agent G.K. Garrison to the Library Board next week.

The rest, she says, are either obviously inappropriate or have already been considered by the Library Board. "We feel we've done a good job," she says.

County voters have approved a bond referendum that authorizes the borrowing of up to \$900,000 for a new library.

*STAFF STORY*  
The FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY honored the library volunteers at a luncheon on March 17 at the Naval Weapons Station Officers Club. Supervisor RODGERS SMITH and Librarian BEVERLY DUDLEY spoke in appreciation of the work of the volunteers. JACKIE INGRAM was presented a Jefferson cup for her many hours of effort on behalf of the Friends of the Library.

The Library staff is happy to have BEVERLY DUDLEY back again, following her recent surgery and convalescence.



# Library stalled by location squabble

by Bill Sizemore  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN — Construction of a new York County public library, for which county voters approved a \$900,000 bond issue last fall, has been stalled by a disagreement over where to put it.

The issue came to a head last Thursday during an hour-long closed-door session of the county board of supervisors with Penny Nichols, chairwoman of the county library board.

Mrs. Nichols presented the library board's unanimous recommendation that the new library be built on a two-acre site on Route 17 next to Heritage Square Shopping Center.

Several of the supervisors, however, are leaning toward putting it on one of two sites already owned by the county in the vicinity of the new county dump

off Goodwin Neck Road.

The supervisors deferred action on the matter until they can get a firmer estimate of the cost of buying and preparing the library board's preferred site.

Mrs. Nichols, who had hoped the board would act on the matter last week, emerged from the meeting hopeful that a vote can be taken at the supervisors' next regular meeting Thursday, March 4.

But Supervisor Tabb Smith, one of those most skeptical of the library board proposal, said after the meeting he doubts the needed information can be put together that fast.

"I won't support a site just because the library board says it's right," Smith said. "They don't have any firm figures."

He said he wants to see an independent appraisal of the site's worth and detailed estimates of site preparation

costs, including extension of utilities.

Smith said he won't vote for the site until it's shown to be more cost-effective than the two county-owned sites.

"Even though you had \$900,000 approved," he said, "that doesn't mean you've got to spend \$900,000."

Mrs. Nichols, obviously frustrated by the delay, expressed confidence the library board will be able to support its recommendation. "We feel that we have done our homework thoroughly," she said.

Mrs. Nichols said the library board hopes county residents will contact their supervisors over the next week and urge them to move ahead with the project at the March 4 meeting.

She said the board's preferred site meets all applicable criteria of the American Library Association and a consultant hired by the board two years ago.

Chief among those criteria are location near the geographical center of the population to be served and proximity to a shopping area.

The board's chosen site is near the center of the Grafton-Tabb area, the county's most densely populated section and the area primarily served by the county's only existing library, a small storefront facility in Grafton Shopping Center.

The wooded parcel chosen by the library board is situated across the Heritage Square access road from Big Star supermarket and is served by public water, sewer and storm drainage, Mrs. Nichols said this week.

The site is owned by York Development Corp., represented by local developer George Garrison. The tentative price to the county is \$80,000.

A major factor in the board's choice,

Mrs. Nichols said, was the fact that development compatible with a library is already planned for adjacent property. Construction of a medical building with offices for up to seven doctors is scheduled to start later this spring on a parcel next-door, she said, and a town-house complex is planned for later development on nearby Ella Taylor Road that would include housing for the elderly and handicapped and a covered walkway to the shopping center.

To argue against the board's site on grounds that it's not now county-owned is spurious, Mrs. Nichols said, because land-purchase costs will be charged against the library bond issue whether the library is built on county property or not.

The supervisors have had two county-owned sites under consideration for the library, both adjacent to the new

county dump. One fronts on Goodwin Neck Road, the other on Old York-Hampton Road.

Questioned about the purchase cost of the latter site, Mrs. Nichols said, "We haven't gone into it much because we don't want it."

And, she said, the library board is even less enthusiastic about the Goodwin Neck Road site.

That assessment conflicts sharply with a report given to the supervisors three weeks ago by county public works director Al Farling, who is pushing the Goodwin Neck Road site. Farling said the library board prefers that site to the Old York-Hampton Road location.

Neither of the county-owned sites is acceptable to the board, Mrs. Nichols said, chiefly because they are in relatively isolated, low-traffic areas.

# Library Site Still Uncertain

By DAVID GIBSON

Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — With hopes that the two lists of prospective sites for a new county library will intersect at a mutually agreeable point, the York County supervisors and library board will meet in a work session at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Library board members have worked for about a year on selection of a site for a new library. County voters approved a \$900,000 general obligation bond issue referendum in November to finance site acquisition and library development.

In February, library board Chairman Penny Nichols presented the supervisors with the board's unanimous first choice, about two acres adjacent to the Heritage Square Shopping Center.

Library board members said the site meets recognized criteria for a library and the \$85,000 price tag for the parcel was reasonable.

At that time, however, supervisors said more information

was needed on that specific site as well as other available sites.

The library board and the supervisors met in closed session for about 30 minutes Thursday night to consider a list of 37 sites along the Route 17 corridor. The list was prepared by the county public works department at the request of the supervisors.

After meeting with the supervisors, the library board held a separate closed session where the list was narrowed down to about 15 sites.

The library board will meet twice next week to narrow the list down to about three sites to be considered at the Thursday work session.

Mrs. Nichols said she hopes the two boards can reach an agreement next week. She said the library board's choice is the public works department's second choice while the department's first choice is across Route 17 from the library board's preferred site.

Mrs. Nichols said Friday the library board members expressed

their frustration to the supervisors Thursday that the county has not selected a site four months after the referendum passed.

"We were frustrated over the lack of action and being told to go back to day one (with the list of 37), after we worked hard to make our recommendation."

York supervisors Chairman E.S. Bingley Jr. said Friday the supervisors had expected to be more involved in the site selection process and some members had reservations about the library board's preferred site.

Bingley said the parcel adjacent to the Heritage Square Shopping Center is subject to the water runoff from the shopping center parking lot.

"The site might have a number of drainage problems that you can alleviate but may never overcome," Bingley said. He said that more detailed information on the site might reveal solutions to the drainage problem.

Bingley said the supervisors might agree to a site Thursday "if

there are no real problems with the site presented."

Mrs. Nichols said it appears the county has ruled out use of a county owned parcel next to the new county landfill off Goodwin Neck Road.

The site was never among the favorites of the library board.

Mrs. Nichols said the library board hopes to begin interviewing architects for the project by the end of the month.

A site for an access road to the new county landfill also is scheduled for next week's work session in the county administration building basement conference room.

Thursday's regular meeting also included a resolution from the supervisors asking the county school board to plan for no more than a 17 percent increase in the local contribution in preparing the school budget for the 1983 fiscal year, which begins in July.

The 17 percent projection includes \$235,000 remaining from the 1981 school budget.

# Then and now, library drive has been a grassroots effort

(Editor's note: As the campaign for a new York County public library nears its end with library and county government officials in final negotiations over a suitable site, York Town Crier reporter Dorothy Harris took a look back to the library's beginnings and found that then, as now, it was a grassroots phenomenon.)

by Dorothy Harris  
York Town Crier

GRAFTON--Since its inception in 1968, the York County Library has been a people effort.

Operating at first with an all-volunteer force; then later with part funding

from the county, the library had its beginnings in an old frame house next to Putt-Putt Golf on Route 17.

The York County Volunteer Association backed the library movement in those days. For the first few years volunteer librarian Nancy Deskins catalogued donated books on donated shelving in about 1,100 square feet of space.

The volunteer association paid the rent for the first year, says Mrs. Deskins. The second year the volunteers asked the county supervisors--another board in another decade--for funding, but were turned down.

By 1969, however, county money was found to pay the \$125 a month rent

and utilities. Library volunteers credited the county administrator, the late William P. Larew, with "finding the money."

And in 1971 the fledgling library made its first move, across the highway to its present location--then about half its current 2,500 feet. By this time county funding was official to pay librarian Beverly Dudley about \$2,000 plus some money for books and other needs.

Almost 10 years later, the library was once again looking for money. Last year library board chairman Elizabeth Rogers spoke to the county planning commission and supervisors, in public and at work sessions, asking that the county include a new library in its capital

improvements for Fiscal Year 1982.

Planning commissioners decided against a new library. Instead their recommendations to the supervisors listed other capital improvements, including the purchase of the Garrison Building on Route 17 where several county agencies now rent space; needed renovations to the Circuit Courthouse and county Administration Building; water studies and other projects.

Supervisors decided against buying the Garrison Building, but added playground improvements at Grafton-Bethel and Seaford elementary schools.

Library supporters next went to the voters. Over the summer, library board

members and the Friends of the Library secured the needed 1,200 signatures in time for the November 1981 general election.

The \$900,000 referendum passed in all voting districts, except in Bruton. Last year York paid the Williamsburg Regional Library \$21,500 for access by Bruton residents.

All that remains is for supervisors and the library board to agree on a library site. When that happens, bonds will be sold and construction can begin.

Not any too soon, say library workers. Circulation is up so much, it's hard for library workers to keep up, says librarian Claire Stiff.

This February, about 130 more books per day were lent than this time last year, says Mrs. Stiff.

When library supporters began talking of the need for a new library building for York County, the crowded storefront held about 20,000 books, plus paperbacks, and had no room for record albums, Reader's Guide indices or microfilm. It held only six chairs for children.

A little more than a year later, the book collection has grown to 24,000 volumes, with 2,000 paperbacks, no record albums, Reader's Guide indices or microfilm. There are still six chairs for children.



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown

## A boost for the library

The Middle Peninsula community relations team of Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co., represented by David Arnold (left) and Patti Jo Anderson (right) recently gave a \$500 donation to the Friends of the York County Public Library. Margie Harris (center), Friends president, received

CRITER MAR. 11, 82



## Swap with landfill entrance

# New site suggested for York library

By SUSAN HAYDEN

Times-Herald Staff Writer

YORK — A potential swap of two pieces of county-owned property might mean the proposed library building will be on a site facing Goodwin Neck Road, across from entrances to Acree Acres and Rosewood subdivisions.

If the swap occurs, the planned entrance to the new county landfill would be several hundred feet north of Goodwin Neck Road at Old York-Hampton Highway, where the library would have been.

The county Board of Supervisors discussed the idea in a work session last week, but is still gathering information about the proposal and has not considered it formally yet.

Last fall, supervisors purchased an 11-acre site off Old York-Hampton Highway for

\$50,000. They had planned to use the front acre or so as a site for a new county library.

The extreme eastern end of the acreage backs onto county property for a new county landfill.

Alan J. Farling, public works director for the county, says he has proposed the trade because he believes it might provide a better long-term use of the county property.

The Library Board wasn't happy with the Old York-Hampton Highway site and still might ask the supervisors to purchase another site for the library, perhaps farther south on Route 17.

In addition, residents of subdivisions along Goodwin Neck Road weren't happy about the landfill entrance being located across from their homes, Farling says.

Their dissatisfaction led supervisors to negotiate a deal with the former owners of the

landfill property, Frankie Woody Gray and her family.

Supervisors traded a five-acre parcel the county owned for a two-acre parcel the Grays still owned so the entrance to the landfill would be farther away from the subdivisions.

The county paid \$45,000 in the trade and also allowed the Grays to cut about 50 percent of the timber on the property, says Farling.

Another wrinkle entered when the county finished clearing the area for the entrance road, then learned it would have to apply for a special use permit that could require trees along the front of Goodwin Neck Road to shield the landfill.

A hearing on the use permit is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. by the Planning Commission.

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7# 3-12-80  
✓ **Family offers land for library**

**YORK** — A prominent Yorktown family has offered to donate land on Route 17 for use as a county library, says the county Board of Supervisors.

The tract is between two and three acres and is adjacent to a vacant service station across from the Edgehill subdivision, says supervisors' Chairman E. S. "Buck" Bingley Jr.

James O'Hara says the gift is offered by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Lesley R. O'Hara of Marlbank. The elder O'Hara is 91.

13-18-82 T.H.  

# *Donated site out as York looks at new library spots*

By **SUSAN HAYDEN**

Times-Herald Staff Writer

**YORK** — A list of the Library Board's top three choices for a new building site doesn't include a three-acre parcel that Mr. and Mrs. Leslie O'Hara of Yorktown have offered to donate to the county for a library.

The Library Board is scheduled to present its three choices at tonight's Board of Supervisors meeting, probably in closed session because the issue deals with acquisition of property.

Library Board Chairman Penny Nichols says the list is the same one the board agreed upon last week and hasn't changed despite the offer.

She won't specifically say where the sites are located.

The O'Hara site is "a beautiful piece of property and we appreciate the gesture," Mrs. Nichols says.

But the O'Hara site doesn't meet criteria set by the Library

Board.

She says the property is too far north, away from both the population center and the geographic center of the lower half of the county.

The Bruton area of the county is served by the Williamsburg Regional Library, so the Library Board has confined its considerations to the lower half of the county.

In addition, Mrs. Nichols says, the O'Hara property is not on the "most traveled route," which would be south on Route 17 toward Newport News, rather than north on Route 17 toward Yorktown.

The criteria were developed partly by a consultant the Library Board hired last year.

The top three choices also don't include the Library Board's original first choice for a library site.

That site, adjacent to Heritage Square Shopping Center, had almost insurmountable soil and drainage problems, Mrs. Nichols says.

# Another \$15,000 Going For Conversion Study

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — Additional consultants' fees of \$15,000 were approved by the York County supervisors Thursday night for further study of Virginia Electric & Power Co.'s use permit application.

Vepco has filed a use permit application to allow coal and ash handling, transportation and disposal in the county, following the planned conversion of two of three local generating units from oil to coal.

About \$18,000 has been spent by the county on consultants to analyze the request since it was first made two years ago. County planning director John Matthews has estimated it might take as much as \$45,000 for a comprehensive analysis of the high technology permit application.

Supervisor Rodgers Smith voted against appropriating the \$15,000. "I've always been against these consultants, so I'm going to be consistent," he said.

Rodgers Smith also voted against a resolution from the county asking the State Air Pollution Control Board to reconsider its response to previously stated county environmental concerns about the planned Vepco conversion.

York County is asking the control board to include in its consent agreement with Vepco provisions for notifying the community of pending air pollution episodes following the conversion; establishment of a dust monitoring program; including the county in further discussions between the con-

trol board and Vepco on the use of alternate solid fuels; and continuing the agreement for the life of the conversion rather than the first two years following the conversion.

A closed meeting with the county library board resulted in a list of three prospects for the proposed new county library.

The sites now under consideration for the library, which is to be financed with a \$900,000 general obligation revenue bond approved in a referendum last year, do not include the former first choices of the library board or the supervisors.

Acting public works director Fred Whitley was asked by the supervisors to arrange land appraisals and estimates of development costs for the parcels by the board's April 1 regular meeting.

The three parcels under consideration are: a four-acre tract about 375 feet off Route 17 on Dare Road; a 2.5-acre site on the south side of Yorkminster Presbyterian Church; and a 3.5-acre site next to the 7-Eleven store at Route 17 and Cook Road near Yorktown.

The latter site is not favored by the library board because it is away from the county's population center.

The library board had previously recommended a site adjacent to the Heritage Square Shopping Center but has since dropped that choice because of drainage problems and poor soil quality, library board chairman Penny Nichols said.

A site across Route 17 from Herit-

age Square was a favorite of the county staff but has since been dropped. No reason was given at the meeting.

Mrs. Nichols said library board members expect the supervisors to select a library site at the April 1 meeting.

In other action, the supervisors:

- Approved revisions to the site plan review ordinance.
  - Tabled action on a proposed water ordinance to regulate public water systems in the county.
  - Set a public hearing for April 15 on the ordinance awarding the county's cable television franchise to Continental Cablevision of Virginia, the only firm to submit a bid for the franchise.
  - Approved the plan for the county to take over maintenance of county vehicles from the county school bus garage.
- The plan calls for the county to lease two bays at the school bus garage and provide its own mechanics for work on county vehicles. It is scheduled to take effect July 1.
- Previously the county vehicles' maintenance was conducted by school personnel who billed the county for the work performed. A citizens committee on county vehicle use found the county may have been overcharged for parts and labor and had unnecessary work done to county vehicles.
- Set a 7 p.m. Thursday work session with the Yorktown Trustees on the joint plan to finance a pier to the Yorktown Shipwreck Archaeology Project.



TOWN CRIER

3/25/82

# Two boards collide over library site gift

YORKTOWN — York County supervisors are heading into an April 1 vote on building a new public library, still on a collision course with the county library board over where to put it.

There is strong sentiment among the supervisors favoring a site that was a late entry in the year-long selection process and has drawn unanimous opposition from the library board.

That site, which fronts on Route 17 opposite Edgehill subdivision, has been offered to the county as a gift by its owner, the Leslie O'Hara family.

Last Thursday night, over the library board's opposition, the supervisors inserted the O'Hara site into a list of three sites from which the library location is to be chosen. Dropped from the list was the library board's third choice, a parcel owned by the Henry Oakley family across Route 17 from Heritage Square Shopping Center.

Still on the list are the library board's first choice, the Vasco Boyd property just off Route 17 on Dare Road, and its second choice, the Rollins property on

Route 17 next to Yorkminster Presbyterian Church.

Supervisors directed county staff to bring appraisals and estimated site development costs of the three sites to the April 1 meeting.

The library board's original first choice, a parcel next-door to Heritage Square Shopping Center, has been dropped from consideration because of drainage problems.

Several supervisors are known to be leaning toward the O'Hara site because it is free and has utilities readily available.

Supervisor Shirley Cooper, who lives in Edgehill, said this week she views the O'Hara offer as "a brilliant opportunity to save the county of York a lot of money."

Mrs. Cooper suggested the money saved by not having to purchase a library site could go toward buying furnishings and books for the library. She said she feels that if the library has the resources county residents want,

they will patronize it regardless of its location.

But the library board, meeting with the supervisors last week, presented a unanimously adopted statement opposing the site for several reasons:

- It is considerably north of the lower county's geographical and population center.

- There is no possibility of further residential development nearby, because most undeveloped land in the area is owned by the National Park Service.

- The site is not on the daily traffic pattern of most York County residents, making it impractical to stop on the way to or from work or shopping.

- It is not near a major shopping center, making it impossible to combine a visit to the library with other errands on the same stop.

In other matters at last Thursday's meeting, the supervisors:

- Voted, 4-1, to ask the State Air Pollution Control Board to expand a

pending agreement with Virginia Electric and Power Co. that would allow the utility to convert its Yorktown Power Station from oil to coal, adding provisions requiring Vepco to notify the county of pollution incidents, monitor "fugitive dust" emissions, include the county in discussions of alternative fuel sources and maintain the agreement for the life of the plant.

- Voted, 4-1, to appropriate \$15,000 to continue the county's contract with an environmental consulting firm to study Vepco's pending application for a fly ash disposal site in connection with its proposed coal conversion. Supervisor Rodgers Smith voted against both Vepco motions.

- Authorized County Administrator John Richardson to sign an agreement with the county school board leasing space in the county school bus garage for the county to work on non-school vehicles using its own mechanics. In the past, school personnel have serviced both school and non-school vehicles.

# 4th Site For New Library Studied By York County

YORKTOWN — Questions about soil conditions and development costs of the three prime sites being considered for the new York County library have led to the investigation of a fourth site.

At a work session last week the York County supervisors asked for soil information on a county-owned site off Old York Hampton Highway near the new county landfill. The two-acre parcel was donated to the county and is adjacent other county-owned property.

The information will be pre-

sented at Thursday's regular supervisors meeting along with soil information and development costs from three other sites being considered for the library.

Lester Seglin, of the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation Service, believes the two-to-four-acre site being considered on Dare Road has soil that probably will not accept a septic system and there are no plans for public sewer in the area in the near future.

Another two-to-four-acre site adjacent Yorkminister Pres-

byterian Church might require foundation drains for building construction, Seglin said.

He said the 3.5-acre parcel offered free to the county near Harrods Lane by the Leslie O'Hara family would require excavation of an organic fill layer to get to solid ground for a building's foundation.

Supervisors Shirley Cooper and Ben Rush prefer the O'Hara site because it can be obtained without cost, although Rush was the supervisor to request the information on the Old York Hampton site.

Supervisor Tabb Smith favors the Old York Hampton site because it is closer to the county population center and on county owned property.

Rodgers Smith has said he will probably support the county library board's recommendation for a site while board chairman E.S. Bingley Jr. said he will consider the merits of the different sites while leaving selection to the four supervisors whose constituents will be served by the new library.

Bingley represents most of the county's Bruton district near Williamsburg. The county pays about \$30,000 annually to the Williamsburg Regional Library to allow upper county residents more convenient library access.

8 YORK TOWN CRIER, Thursday, March 25, 1982

## Library: hidden cost

If the new local library is placed at the mouth of Edgehill, whether the site comes free or not there's a hidden cost for generations to come.

As of last weekend we understood the supervisors — on the financial hot-seat — were leaning 3-1-1 toward the O'Hara family's generous offer. Will they have the sense to look beyond "A-man" in the following debate?

**A-man:** If the supervisors save a hundred grand by using the O'Hara land, they've got my vote.

**B-man:** Not mine — by the next election we'll have spent twice as much as that in extra gasoline expenses. Making special library trips miles and miles from the supermarkets and malls — and I'm not going there at night, either.

**C-man:** You're both wrong. There will be a big savings in sticking the library four miles away from the population center: the library will be only half-used,

## Editorial

we'll save half a million dollars in "desertion savings" on repairs, book replacement, librarians — and on food. As our brains shrink we'll need less food. That's where we're heading if they decide this strictly on a money basis. Might as well sell our books to Poquoson, bulldoze the library for good, save a cool million dollars.

**A-man:** Hey, there's an idea. I don't use libraries anyway. I'm talking taxes...

Well, that's the A-B-C of it. We'd pay closer attention to the library experts, supervisors. And don't forget: B-man and C-man are voters too.

W.T.

# York To Consider 4th Library Site

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

YORKTOWN — A fourth site will be considered by the York Supervisors on Thursday when they receive information on potential locations for the new county library.

At a work session Thursday, Supervisor Ben Rush asked the county administrator to include property the county owns adjacent the new county landfill as a fourth potential site for the library.

Property acquisition and development costs of three other sites were to be prepared for the supervisors' consideration at next week's regular meeting.

The three sites already on the list include a parcel near Harrods Lane, a parcel adjacent to Yorkminster Presbyterian Church and a parcel on Dare Road near Route 17.

The parcel near Harrods Lane was recently donated to the county for a library site by the Leslie O'Hara family.

Supervisors Shirley Cooper and Rush indicated they would be willing to accept the gift even though the site is not favored by the county library board. The library board objects to the site because it is so near Yorktown and so far away from the population center in the lower end of the county.

The savings realized from the use of the donated land could be applied to the library's furnishings, Mrs. Cooper said.

The library board members have said they would prefer a site farther south on Route 17 closer to the county's population centers.

Mrs. Cooper said the O'Hara site would not necessarily be out of the way for county residents because "anything you do in York

County you have to get on Route 17 and drive your car to get there."

Supervisors Tabb Smith and Rodgers Smith said they would favor a site farther south on Route 17, possibly on property already owned by the county, rather than one as near Yorktown as the O'Hara site.

"If you want to make it a museum, put it on the O'Hara property," Rodgers Smith said. "If you want it to serve the population, put it closer to the population center."

Smith said the O'Hara site would be as far for some Tabb area residents as the current Grafton site is from Bruton area residents.

The county pays about \$30,000 annually to the Williamsburg Regional Library to allow Bruton area residents the use of the library.

Also at the work session, the supervisors set a 4 p.m. meeting with the Yorktown trustees to discuss details of the agreement between the two bodies to build a 500-foot pier to the Yorktown Shipwreck Archaeological Project.

Attorneys for the trustees and supervisors were to have considered an agreement and bring the unresolved details to the meeting for discussion, but the trustees' agreement was ready only shortly before the 7 p.m. meeting, so the joint meeting was postponed.

The agreement calls for the trustees to pay \$125,000 to build the pier to the shipwreck cofferdam project in exchange for the county canceling the \$258,000 debt owed by the trustees from the waterfront improvements project.

The supervisors also asked County Attorney Thomas Athey to prepare estimates of how much it would cost the county to hire a full-time assistant for Athey.

I am writing in response to the comment in your March 24 editorial wherein you felt "York County must be brought in to offset its fair share of the costs (of the Williamsburg Regional Library operation)."

A few years ago, the Bruton area residents of York County asked the county government to consider making an annual contribution to the Williamsburg library in exchange for free library service for Bruton area. Both the York County Board of Supervisors and the York Library Board of Trustees felt this was a reasonable request in view of the distance between Bruton and the York County Public Library. York County has made payments to the Williamsburg library in exchange for library service for Bruton ever since.

In determining the annual amount offered the Williamsburg Regional Library, the York County administration has had "fairness" as its sole criterion. A formula was devised which was felt to be scrupulously fair to the York County taxpayer, and it has been generally accepted by

## LETTERS

the taxpayers because it is fair. Each annual operating budget of the York County Public Library—less state and federal subsidies and income generated by the library (fines etc)—is divided by the number of residents in the lower four districts of York County. This determines the amount per capita of local support for library service. That amount is then multiplied by the number of Bruton area residents to determine a fair amount of taxpayer support for library service for the Bruton area.

(Incidentally, the amount per capita this year was \$3.98. This amount is higher than all but 12 of the 55 regional and county libraries in the Commonwealth of Virginia this past year.)

We realize that the issue is a troublesome one, with no easy solutions. Bruton area citizens are heavy library users; but to pay any more per capita for library service for any single area would place an unfair tax burden on the rest of the county. This is why we believe that our current policy is indeed a fair one.

Pencelia D. Nichols  
Chairman  
Library Board of Trustees  
Yorktown



# Harrods Lane Site Picked For

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

**YORKTOWN** — The 3.5-acre parcel near Harrods Lane donated to York County by the Leslie O'Hara family was selected as the site for the new county public library Thursday.

York supervisors voted 3-2 in favor of accepting the site after voting 4-1 to place the library on property owned by the county or obtainable at no cost.

Supervisors Rodgers Smith and Tabb Smith voted against the O'Hara site because they said it was too close to Yorktown and away from the population center of the lower portion of the county, which constitutes the majority of the new library's service area.

Board chairman E.S. Bingley Jr. of Bruton cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the O'Hara site after saying previously he would let the other four supervisors select the library site. The county pays \$30,000 each year to the city of Williamsburg to allow Bruton area residents use of the Williamsburg Regional Library.

Bingley said he was swayed to the O'Hara site after hearing results of a poll conducted among members of the Friends of the York County Library.

According to supervisor Ben Rush, the poll shows that 53 Library Friends members preferred the O'Hara site, 23 supported a site on Dare Road and 16 chose a site adjacent Yorkminister Presbyterian Church respectively.

The York County Library Board members favored the site next to the church because of its location nearer the population center.

The new library will be about 2.3 miles north of the present county library in the Grafton Shopping Center.

Plans call for a 11,000-square-foot library to replace the current 2,500-square-foot library.

Tabb Smith suggested that with the selection of the O'Hara site the county cease its \$30,000 payment to Williamsburg. He said the site is generally equidistant from both the upper and lower ends of the county so there will be no need to continue the Bruton contribution.

Tabb Smith also suggested the county sell 13 acres of property off Old York Hampton Highway owned by the county. Smith said the property was purchased with the library in mind and with the selection of another site it is no longer needed by the county.

Two acres of the 13 were do-

nated to the county.

The O'Hara site is valued at \$120,000, according to county public works department estimates. The Dare Road site was valued at \$111,000 with the site adjacent to Yorkminister valued at \$405,000.

Staff estimates to ready the sites to accept foundations ranged from \$11,200 for the O'Hara site to \$124,300 for the site preferred by the library board, including \$113,000 for acquisition of property.

Library board chairman Penny

Nichols said the choice of the O'Hara site will probably raise the need for a bookmobile, especially if the county discontinues the Bruton contribution.

Supervisor Shirley Cooper was a strong supporter of the O'Hara site.

She said the sayings realized by not having to buy the property could be spent in furnishing the library.

County residents approved a \$900,000 general obligation bond issue last year to build a new li-

## York Library

brary.

"I think the people would prefer seeing us spend more money on the development of the library and not on the site," she said.

In other action the supervisors:

- Approved a change to the mobile home subdivision provision of the county's zoning ordinance to allow all types of single-family homes in the district. The intent of the change is to allow modular homes in the mobile home district but the county attorney ruled custom-built homes would have to be

allowed also because the custom-built homes and modular homes conform to the same building codes.

- Tabled action on a proposed water ordinance that would give the county the authority to regulate public water systems in the county.

- Agreed with the Yorktown trustees on terms for financing the pier to the Yorktown Shipwreck Archaeology Project. The trustees will pay the county \$129,000 by May 20 to have the pier built.

CRIER, 4/8/82

# Library leaders unhappy, but moving ahead

by Virginia Gabriele  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN—Upset, but resigned is the reaction of York's library staff and library board following last week's selection of a donated 3.5-acre site near Harrods Lane for the new county library.

The library people are upset that the board of supervisors disregarded the sites near Grafton recommended by the library board and chose the parcel offered by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie O'Hara of Yorktown.

"We're not at all happy," said librarian Beverly Dudley. "We just felt a central location was important enough to pay for. We've had many people tell us they'll stop using the library when it moves up there."

But the library people are resigned to the decision. "I'm assuming it's irrevocable," said Mrs. Dudley.

"I don't like it, but there's not a whole lot we can do about it," said library board chairman Penny Nichols.

Discussions already are beginning about where on the site the new library will be located and whether it will have access to Route 17.

Mrs. Nichols said the library board hopes to recommend an architect for the 11,000-square-foot building in three weeks (six architects have been interviewed). She said that "if everything goes well," ground could be broken for the library by late fall.

The county supervisors voted 3-2 last Thursday to accept the O'Hara site for the library after voting 4-1 to place the library on property already owned by the county or obtainable at no cost.

Supervisors Rodgers Smith and Tabb Smith voted against the site because they said it is too close to Yorktown and too far away from the people in the lower portion of the county who will be using the library.

The two Smiths also suggested that since the Harrods Lane site is as far from Tabb as it is from Bruton, that the county should consider stopping the \$30,000 contribution that permits Bruton residents use of the Williamsburg Regional Library.

Board chairman E. S. Bingley, Jr. of Bruton cast the deciding vote for the O'Hara site, saying he was swayed by a poll conducted among members of the Friends of the Library.

The poll showed 53 Friends preferred the O'Hara site, 23 supported a site on Dare Road and 16 chose a site adjacent to Yorkminster Presbyterian Church. The library board preferred the last two because of their central locations.

However, Marge Harris, chairman of

the Friends, said the poll was only an informal, internal sampling that doesn't reflect the opinions of all the Friends. Ninety-two of the 150 Friends were polled, but the sampling included only 11 Friends from Tabb and 20 from Dare.

Mrs. Harris said she was disappointed the supervisors had disregarded the recommendations of the library board after asking that board to spend time investigating and recommending sites.

Supervisors Shirley Cooper of Yorktown and Ben Rush of Seaford supported the O'Hara site because they felt it was central enough and would permit more money to be spent on the building.

County voters approved a \$900,000 general obligation bond issue last year to build the library.

Rodgers Smith supported one of the library board's sites on Route 17, while Tabb Smith wanted to place the library on county-owned land on Old York-Hampton Road. He said the supervisors originally bought that land specifically for a library.

York County has been paying for county residents to have free use of the Williamsburg Regional Library since 1977. This year the county gave \$27,343 toward the regional library's budget of \$383,387. York is proposing to give \$29,393 next year. The library had requested \$36,000.

The appropriation is computed by determining the per capita amount spent on York's library and then multiplying that by the number of residents in Bruton.

Williamsburg is the only library on the Peninsula to charge non-residents for using the facility. Librarian Martha Vazquez said York County is asked for money because county residents comprise 18 percent of the regional library's registrations and usage. "I'm afraid James City County and Williamsburg would not want to finance York County residents' use of their library," said Mrs. Vazquez.

Mrs. Vazquez said her library board plans to meet with the York supervisors before the new library is completed to discuss the future of the appropriation and library services for county residents.

Many York County residents also use Grissom Library in Denbigh and Northampton Library in Hampton, but no figures are kept on such usage, and no fees are charged.

Mrs. Nichols said that selection of the O'Hara site probably means the county will need a bookmobile to serve outlying areas.

CRIER, 4/22/82

## Library officers

GRAFTON—Friends of the Library executive board elected officers at their annual membership meeting last week.

President is June Smoot; first vice-president, Marge Harris; second vice-president, Nan Ayer; recording secretary, Judy Clark; treasurer, Tina Richardson; and corresponding secretary, Virginia Cervi.



# Storyfolks at library

GRAFTON—The Storyfolks, performing storytellers for children, will be at the York County Library Saturday, April 24 at 2:30pm in honor of National Library Week, April 18-24.

Storytellers Joanne Branyon-Ward and John Ward will act out story plots from traditional and contemporary children's stories. They use music, improvisation, chanting and sound effects.

The York Friends of the Library are sponsoring the event.

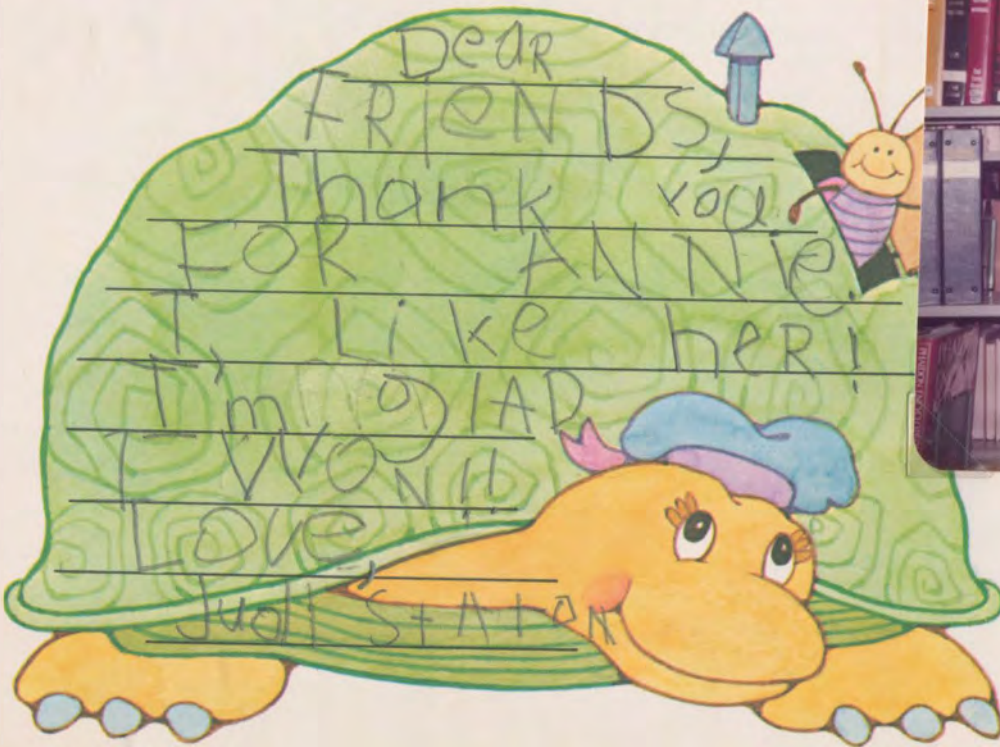
A book sale is scheduled for Saturday, 10am-3pm by the Friends. Hardbacks go for 50 cents.



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown

## Story time

"The Story Folks" dramatized the story of a cat and dog sharing a hambone at the story-telling program at the York County Public Library last week in celebration of National Library Week. Afterward, Judy Staton, 6, won an "Annie" doll in a guessing contest to see who could come closest to the number of curls on the doll. Judy's guess was 1,006; the actual numnben was 1,018.





# Supervisors shafting citizens, reac

Crier:

Fellow citizens, wake up and act before it is too late!!

To put it in words of one syllable, we have been shafted - AGAIN. By the board of supervisors, who else? Their business phone number is 898-0202, and you better protest or else be ready to give the last shirt off your back from now until eternity. The way they are going, it will soon be too late to ever recover. They are busily promising our funds for a long time to come.

At the open board meeting last week, I heard a very nice and polite businessman beg for relief from the one-third increase in sewage rates which is strangling business. No wonder small businesses in York County are foundering and failing with such frequency. And property owners tell me that their rates have more than doubled in some areas....

At the same meeting, on the agenda, the board stated they were to discuss raising the real estate tax rate to 95 cents per \$100, not the 94 cents reported on television. In 1980, it was 70 cents, which we could live with. In 1981, it became 84 cents, which was a whopping raise, particularly with the constant upward reassessment of values. In 1981, they plan on AT LEAST 95 cents unless they are stopped. They obviously do not plan this amount to go down, because on the same agenda was a plan to ask for the money twice a year instead of once.

Considering the new fire station in Seaford, and other programs, in 1983 the rate will go up to \$1.25 unless the board is stopped from throwing around money they do not have. Why, in a period of recession in this country, does our normally sane and conservative county have a bounding inflation which is equalled nowhere else in the nation? If the board wishes to spend a lot of new money, let them adjust other expenditures downward to compensate, instead of hiring five or six new people, and raising salaries, and expanding usage of automobiles.

At the same board meeting, the most appalling thing of all was accomplished. Completely brushing aside valuable opinions and recommendations of such as the library board, which had been appointed to guide and plan library policies, and that of a competent systems analyst with 18 years of experience in library matters, the board bulldozed everyone aside and made a decision to use a "free" piece of property, the O'Hara plot. Isolated, two to three miles north of the population center of

## Letters

York County, where few will use it, the board confirmed their own pre-determined decision to use this expensive piece of property.

Expensive? When I had said it was "free?" Yes, indeed. We have an approved bond to ACQUIRE PROPERTY AND BUILD A LIBRARY, so the money spent on a usable piece of land would not be coming out of the county's pocket. Next, if we go ahead and build a MILLION DOLLAR LIBRARY so far from the population center, after the first week or two of curiosity seekers, the building would not be used, and Bingley's Bungle would become a derelict which would be useless and expensive. Nothing is expensive if it is fully used.

How do I know this would not be used? By the comments of library patrons. By the statements of our volunteer workers that they would be unwilling and even refuse to go "all the way up there" to help out, especially at night when they are most needed. Only this week, a woman was dragged from her car and assaulted right near where they propose to build the library.

Did you realize that our present beloved and shabby library now has a very high usage rate? That it is so convenient that people do not have to seek it out, but use it as a matter of course? That we have only one librarian, two paraprofessionals and one clerk - and that all the rest of the workload is handled by 23 volunteer (free) citizens who give of their time? That if the library is moved out of the Grafton area, we will need to service other parts of the county by buying and operating bookmobiles? Do you know how much that would cost? A whopping amount. An initial cost of \$55,000 plus \$8 or \$9 thousand recurring cost PER BOOKMOBILE. Is this called saving money?

To build in a place which would not be used is false economy. It is in line with prior half-considered actions. I suggest that the board reconsider its decision before it goes too far, and in future leave library policy to the library board, which specialized in that sort of thing.

It is cold comfort to know that we are not the only area in the country which is having trouble with elected officials. California, for example, even has a

bumper sticker which says DON'T RE-ELECT ANYONE! It is a good thing to keep in mind, fellow citizens, but in the meantime, call 898-0202 and protest. If you do not protest, you have no right to complain. Isn't that fair? If enough of us act, we may be able to straighten out our chaotic financial affairs before we are all forced to emigrate to save ourselves. The board may have bulging billfolds so these mountainous costs won't affect them, but most of us do not. CALL, please???

N. L. Ayer

## Supervisor defends actions on library

This is in answer to Mrs. N.L. Ayers' letter of April 19. Mrs. Ayers, a library consultant, has on several occasions indicated interest in doing work for York County. I can only speculate her disappointment in not achieving this prompted her letter.

I have consistently supported the library. I wrote letters to the editor, campaigned, and spoke in support of it. Many people had no faith the bond would pass, but I took a public stand.

When the site was considered, I publicly supported the York Square site, which proved impossible because of severe drainage problems. Mr. O'Hara offered three acres of valuable property. It would have been irresponsible to refuse this generous offer. Utilities are available, it will have a small development cost and it is directly on Rt. 17.

The bottom line is the York County Board of Supervisors by public vote decided not to buy any more property. The only choices, therefore, were the O'Hara land and the landfill site, which would have very expensive development cost, including bringing in utilities.

The landfill site was bought with a central garage in mind. I will not waste bond money (this is tax money, too). I will not spend several hundred thousand dollars of extra tax money when it is not necessary. The people of York County constantly tell the board they are pushed to the wall with taxation.

It's totally unfair to write without investigating the facts. This supervisor has not been involved with the project's consultants. The responsibility was delegated to the county staff and the Library Board.

T-H 5/1, Shirley F. Cooper  
York County

## Cooper hailed

Crier:

I would like to take this means and opportunity to answer a letter published in "Readers Forum," Times Herald, Monday, April 19, and signed by one N.L. Ayer, Yorktown. Mr. or Mrs. Ayer seemed to be quite confused — upset or unaware of the impact of the entire "library problem."

The late and Honorable Mr. L. R. O'Hara was kind enough to donate several acres of "prime" land, located on Route 17, to the county and consequently to the taxpayers of York County, on which to build a public library. This benevolent gesture represents a saving to the public of several hundred thousand dollars, which, in turn, could be used to help build and furnish the new library. Every York County resident and the general public will grossly benefit from this proposed project. The very short distance from the present library to the proposed one is SO INSIGNIFICANT as not being worth discussing. We travel to the Courthouse to pay our local taxes and purchase county auto decals, etc., etc., etc. Should we build a courthouse at Harwood's Mill??? Or near Tabb High School? What would be his/her complaint then???

As for Mrs. Cooper running for the House of Delegates in Richmond, I take my hat off and bow to her in total respect and gratitude. Her experience and knowledge of the needs and desires of the citizens of this 92nd District far exceed those of any other candidate.

I have known Mrs. Cooper quite well since she first ran for public office in 1976 and have had very close dealings with her and other members of the board of supervisors — in her two terms as chair-lady and member of the board. Her dedication and devotion to the citizens of York County are above reproach. If I were empowered to present a "Citizen of the Year" plaque to a York County resident, Mrs. Cooper would be my very first choice!!!

It would be of terrific benefit for every registered voter in the new 92nd District, regardless of party affiliation, to "co-operate with Cooper," and elect her to the House of Delegates.

Arthur J. Jordan Sr.  
Dare

## Get facts about library

Crier:

We, the York County Library Board of Trustees, are writing in response to a letter published in the Times-Herald on May 1 from one of our supervisors. We feel the citizens should have the facts in the matter and more of them can get same from a letter to your paper.

It is true that the York County Board of Supervisors agreed in public not to purchase property, but we feel this was done before the meeting and in such a way that it could not be changed at the meeting. It was also not in accordance with the bond issue which the citizens of the County passed. The bond issue clearly stated that the \$900,000 was for land acquisition and a building. We were instructed by the supervisors, as a result of the bond issue, to work with the county staff and locate the best possible site. After many long hours of searching, we presented them with just such a site, which met criteria of our library consultant, Hoyt Galvin, and a professional soil conservation expert. Our site also had all utilities and in addition was not filled land, which is not the case with the one finally chosen.

In the meantime, the O'Hara family offered a site and while we all publicly stated that we thought it was a unanimous gesture on their part, we still felt the library board site was in a better location in which to serve the bulk of the taxpayers of York County, namely the TABB area. As to saving several hundred thousand dollars, this is not the case.

Our choice could have been purchased for much less than that. Although the assessed value of the O'Hara property is several hundred thousand dollars, the amount budgeted for property acquisition was only \$60,000, which is all that has been added back into the budget for building and furnishings. Our site also had all utilities, was not filled land. Since the O'Hara property is filled land, it may not support an 11,000 square foot library building without much added structural expense.

## Letters

We realize that a supervisor's time is at a premium, but every piece of information gleaned from any of our professional sources was presented to each of our supervisors before it was publicly presented and we resent the implication that when it was time to vote and "save money for the taxpayers" the supervisor didn't have enough information. The only responsibility given to the library board was to find a site to present for a vote and this we did. We accept no responsibility for acquiring the O'Hara site and in fact the library board rejected this site by a vote of 5-0 based on rating criteria nationally used for library sites. The supervisors accepted this site 3-2 even though it didn't appear on our list. As we were waiting with the rest of the county taxpayers to see what restrictive clauses will be in the O'Hara deed, we worked in conjunction with the county staff and the librarian to select a professional architectural firm to design the library. This selection was made using established standards and has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Pencelia D. Nichols  
Amanda McLean  
Diane H. Holland  
Elizabeth C. Rogers  
Eric Sheriff

York County Public Library  
Board of Trustees

# York checking library bond validity

YORKTOWN—York supervisors have gotten a memo from County Attorney Thomas Athey on ways to ensure that the sale of \$900,000 in bonds for a new county library will be valid.

County voters, in a referendum last November, approved the bond sale for a new library site and building. However, since that time some residents have objected to the supervisors' decision to build the library on Harrods Lane, near York High School.

The library board has voted unanimously against approving the supervisors' choice of a site.

Supervisor Tabb Smith, who voted against the Harrods Lane site, said he

had had calls from his district from voters who believed the new library would be built in the Grafton area.

Smith's district is No. 5, the southernmost of the county's five election districts.

The Harrods Lane property was donated to the county by the late Leslie O'Hara.

Library board members have said the O'Hara property is too far from the county's population center and is isolated by surrounding federally owned property.

In his memo to the supervisors, Athey mentions two Virginia laws that allow "any person, corporation or association" to contest the issuance of bonds.

A "governing body may file an action at any time," says Athey, "to establish the validity of the bonds."

At the last supervisors' meeting, Smith asked that supervisors secure a "ruling of validation from the Circuit Court" before proceeding with bond sales.

"Anyone contesting the validity of the issuance would have the burden of proof," says Athey in his memo.

Supervisors who voted for accepting the O'Hara site have said the gift by the O'Hara family will save money that can be spent on books and furnishings.

Others in favor of the O'Hara site have said that if the library can offer the services needed, its location will not be crucial.

*York Town Crier May 20 1982*

## County accepts donated library site

by Dorothy Harris  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN—On another in a series of 3-2 votes, the York County Board of Supervisors agreed last Thursday to accept a four-acre site donated by the late Leslie O'Hara for a new library.

The site is on Route 17 at Harrod Lane opposite Edgehill.

Supervisors Rodgers Smith and Tabb Smith voted no. Both had voted against selecting the O'Hara property for a library, preferring a site closer to Grafton and the lower county.

The supervisors asked County Administrator John Richardson to have ready for their next meeting a resolution to approve sale of the bonds for the library. Tabb Smith's earlier motion that the county request a court validation of the library bond referendum was defeated.

Supervisors also voted to award an architectural contract to Caro, Monroe and Liang of Newport News. The firm was approved by a selection committee of library board and county representatives.

Plan preparation will require at least five months, Richardson said in a memo last month. Work should begin in the fall.



# School Budget

tract for the station.

- Delayed selection of an architect to design the new county library and acceptance of the site offered for the building by the Leslie O'Hara family. Richardson recommended the county not vote to accept the property until the deed conveying the land was received. The county staff has recommended that the firm of Caro, Monroe and Laing be awarded the design contract.

Supervisor Tabb Smith asked the county staff to ask the circuit court to validate the choice of the O'Hara property for the library. The library is to be built with general obligation bonds approved by voters in a referendum. Smith said the court should certify that construction

of the library on the O'Hara property, which is located at Harrod Lane and Route 17 near Yorktown, would not violate an understanding some voters might have had that the library was to be built in "Grafton."

- Set a work session for 7 p.m. Tuesday in the county administration building conference room to discuss plans for a central maintenance plant for county vehicles and equipment.

- Adopted an ordinance to regulate public water distribution systems in the county. The ordinance requires permission from the county to establish new systems and to expand existing systems.

*Daily Press May 21, 1982*

## York Library Site Accepted

By DAVID GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

**YORKTOWN** — The gift of property for the new York County library was formally accepted by York County supervisors Thursday and an architect was selected to design the building.

The board accepted the four-acre tract near Harrod Lane and Route 17 donated earlier this year by the Leslie O'Hara family. Acceptance of the parcel was delayed at the last regular meeting of the board because the county had not received the deed to the property.

Supervisors awarded the design contract to the Newport News architectural firm of Caro, Monroe and Laing. The selection was based on a recommendation from a selection committee composed of members of the county staff. The contract is not to exceed \$54,200. The decisions on the library came after the board defeated a motion by Tabb

Smith to have the referendum for the \$900,000 bond issue validated by the court.

Smith maintains that the supervisors gave the impression the library would be located in "Grafton" and the location of the O'Hara property is too far north on Route 17 to fit that description. He has been told by some residents in the lower end of the county they would not have supported the referendum had they known the library would have been located as far north in the county as now planned.

Smith said the county should ask the circuit court to validate the referendum to allow residents the opportunity to challenge the location of the library based on their interpretation of the referendum ballot.

County Attorney Thomas Athey said residents still have time to challenge the referendum after the board announces its intention to sell the bonds.

County Administrator John Richardson will present the supervisors with a resolution to enter the bond market at its next meeting.

Because the county does not expect to issue the bonds until fall, the time between the resolution in June and the fall will allow ample opportunity for residents' challenges, Athey said.

Smith felt the county should shoulder the burden of the validation rather than placing the burden on residents.

Approval for the county staff to proceed with the design of a Bypass Road sewer system was also granted by the board.

The Bypass Road area is a major approach to the Williamsburg tourist area and supervisors hope to have the sewer operational by March 1983. The sewers will be needed by developers planning new motels and other businesses in the area.

In other action the supervisors:

- Agreed to ask the Virginia

Public School Authority for permission to issue \$285,000 in bonds to repair roofs at Tabb High and Yorktown Intermediate schools.

- Voted to request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge a channel between the York River and Back Creek, known as Sandbox Channel. The supervisors said the "urgent" request was made to remove material in the channel, which is hindering navigation.

- Allocated \$22,000 from the county's transportation fund to purchase equipment (\$15,000) and spare parts (\$5,000), and make modifications to the school bus garage bays to be used by the county for vehicle maintenance beginning July 1.

Under an agreement effective in July the county will begin maintenance of its vehicles rather than have the vehicles serviced through an agreement with the school system.

*The Gazette* 5/26/82

## Grafton upset that library isn't closer

By Stewart MacInnis

Whether construction of a new library for York County will begin this year now depends on the weather in December, a county engineer said after the supervisors authorized the hiring of an architect last Thursday.

According to Fred Whitley, chief engineer for the county utilities and public works department, an initial meeting with the architects of Caro, Monroe and Laing, a Newport News architectural firm, will probably take place next week.

At that meeting, county and library officials will tell the architects what they have in mind for the \$660,000 facility.

The supervisors last week accepted the donation of a tract of land on Route 17 near the intersection of Cook Road for the library site. The tract was given to the county by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie O'Hara.

At the same time, the board defeated a motion by supervisor H. Tabb Smith to have a \$900,000 bond issue referendum validated by the circuit court. Smith said he had been approached by a number of residents in the Grafton area who are not pleased with the location of the new library site. He said when they voted for the referendum, they thought the library would be closer to Grafton.

Smith said the county should validate the referendum before construction begins. Area residents should be allowed an opportunity to challenge the location of the library, he said.

County Attorney Thomas W. Athey said residents can

challenge the referendum on their own. He said there is sufficient time for a challenge between the adoption of resolution next month authorizing the sale of the bonds and the expected sale date this fall.

Whitley said after the meeting that a preliminary design of the proposed 11,000-square-foot library building is expected to be completed within 40 days. "We hope to get it designed and out to bid to a contractor this year."

The onset of the winter freeze will be critical to the construction schedule, Whitley said. The footings for the building must be in place before the ground freezes. If that is done, the remainder of the building can be constructed through the winter. If it is not done, the contractor will have to wait for the spring thaw before he can begin construction.

The construction of the library is expected to cost \$660,000. The contract for designing the facility calls for expenditures not to exceed \$54,200 by the architect. The remainder of the \$900,000 bond issue is to be used to buy furnishings, connection to utilities and for use in contingencies, Whitley said.

The county library is currently housed in a 2,500 square feet of space at the Grafton Shopping Center. Library supporters say the current location is woefully inadequate for the number of books in the library and the number of people the facility is supposed to serve.

# Youth Center, Library Wanted At Empty Mall

By RAY BETZNER

Staff Writer

YORK — County residents who would like to see the vacant Bargain Mall on Route 17 become a library or activity center for young people will have to work fast.

Mall owner Dr. Ralph R. Novoa likes the two proposals, but said he will sell the building to anyone who has the money to buy it.

The mall has been empty since March, when the few small businesses in the 12,000-square-foot structure closed. Since then, Novoa has been looking for someone who can buy the year-old building.

"I'm waiting to see which person has the cash," he said. "It's first come, first served."

Carmen Quinn, a real estate agent showing the mall property, said Novoa is asking \$465,000 for the building and two acres or \$740,000 for the building and 16 acres.

There have been several inquiries from businessmen.

Also interested is a group of students and adults, who want a place for young people in the evenings and on weekends.

The idea started after complaints about students congregating in the parking lot of a county shopping center prompted the board of supervisors to approve an anti-loitering ordinance.

Students and law enforcement officials agree the ordinance did not stop the problem and only forced the teen-agers to find another place to meet.

"The only other place we have to go is the Hampton malls," York High School student Mary Pontillo said. When the malls close, the students have to find somewhere else.

As part of a class project, Ms. Pontillo collected signatures on a petition asking the supervisors to consider the Bargain Mall for an activities center.

County resident Nancy Martin also circulated petitions asking for the mall's conversion to a youth center. She is seeking financial backing to buy and convert the mall, but so far hasn't gathered enough people.

"I've had nothing but positive response," she said. "But the big thing now is money."

Another proposal is to convert the mall into a county library. Architect J. L. Bates believes buying the mall would be cheaper than building a library on the site now proposed for one. The supervisors plan to build the library on donated land a few miles north of the Bargain Mall on Route 17.

County voters approved the sale of \$900,000 in bonds for the library. The money is more than enough to buy the mall and two acres of land around it.

Although the supervisors have approved using the donated site for the library, they have requested county staff members to look into using the bargain mall for the library instead.

They also asked the staff to study the youth center proposal.

# Though cramped, Grafton library <sup>V6 7-14-82</sup> does volume work

By Stewart MacInnis

"The next two years are really going to be hard," said Beverley Dudley as she looked around the crowded storefront in the Grafton Shopping Center. The shelves lining the walls and the closely spaced bookcases were jammed with the 25,000 volumes of the York County Library.

If all goes well, the library will be moving into a new building in 18 months. That building, which is now being designed, will be more than four times larger than the library's current 2,500 square feet. It should be large enough to alleviate the library's space problems for the next 10 years, Mrs. Dudley estimates.

In the meantime, the library will have to make do. By most standards the York library is successful. Last year its circulation reached 137,000 up 12,000 from the year before. In two days recently, 1,800 books were checked out—that's more than four books every three minutes.

"We're reaching the saturation point," Mrs. Dudley said. "The staff and our resources are pushed as far as they can go. We're getting to the point where we have to crawl over people."

Though it is not often that people literally have to climb over one another, it does happen occasionally. "Our children's programs are very well attended," Mrs. Dudley explained. "The only place to put that many people is in the lounge area in the middle."

With half the library's collection in the front page part of the room and the other half in the part behind the lounge, a crowd of children gathered on the floor makes access to about 12,500 books difficult.

Children's programs may be fabulously successful, but adult programs are virtually non-existent. "Children will put up with being on the floor and crowded, but adults won't," Mrs. Dudley said. The limited programs offered by the library are as much a concern to her as the limited space.

That problem should be eliminated with a meeting room that is being designed into the new library building. "It's a modest meeting room, but it's a meeting room," she said. "The building is being designed as a library and not a store, so our facilities should be much better."

While the new building will offer many things the shopping center location doesn't, the shopping center has the advantage of being convenient. Many residents have combined their trips to the library with trips to the various stores in the shopping center. Will fewer people come to the library if that is the only reason they're making the trip?

That is a problem that is highly speculative now. The library's staff and volunteers are faced with more immediate problems caused by the lack of space. The number of books in the library has grown four times since the library moved into the storefront 11 years ago.

An addition in 1975 nearly doubled the space, but now no enlargement is planned and there is no space for new books. Should new books be purchased only as fast as old ones wear out? Should little-used books be retired? Should some books be put into storage?

"We have got some very big problems yet," Mrs. Dudley said. "We've got some decisions we're going to have to make."



Stewart MacInnis

The shelves are crowded and the aisles are narrow at the York County Library. Myra Baytop, a summer worker at the library, replaces books during an unusually quiet time at the normally crowded library.



Staff photo

Despite its age, Grafton Shopping Center continues to attract a steady stream of York County shoppers.

## Shopping center young for its age

By JAY HANCOCK  
Staff Writer

YORK — Even though it is a veritable patriarch among shopping centers, Grafton Shopping Center is hale and hearty at the age of 22.

This child of economic expansion in the early 1960s is obviously a child no more; its cracked paint and strip-type layout testify to its age. But it has aged gracefully, successfully competing for tenants with newer and larger shopping centers nearby.

Almost all its spaces are filled, and the one empty store is being rented but not used. Retailers who deserted the shopping center over the years have been replaced by lawyers, doctors and other professionals.

Merchants who remain report business is good despite the lack of a grocery store "anchor" to pull in shoppers.

Grafton Shopping Center is on Route 17, midway between Newport News and Yorktown, serving the communities of Grafton, Tabb, Seaford and

Dare. It was the first shopping center in lower York County and one of the first on the Peninsula, says E. Ralph James Sr., who developed it with grocery-store tycoon James E. Rich.

"He and I were riding along the road and we saw that (farm) land for sale," James said. "I said to him, 'Jimmy, that would be a good place for a shopping center.' He said, 'Alright, call them up and buy it.'"

Most of the financial stake in the center passed into Rich's estate at his death in 1975. James retains a small interest, he said.

The center, built in 1961, has 19 tenants and 71,000 square feet of space sitting on 17 acres.

Recently, Route 17 has seen many new commercial construction projects. Merchants say the development could be a boon for the center, because it would attract extra traffic, or a burden, because it could breed competition.

Eight tenants are professionals such as insurance agents and doctors, a mix that theoretically might hurt retailers. Profes-

sional offices bring in comparatively few customers, limiting circulation in the center.

But Al Walters, president of Grafton Shopping Center Inc., said his center has several big draws to make up for that: an Alcoholic Beverage Control store, a library, a bank and a pharmacy. "It enhances a shopping center to have an ABC store, a drug store and a good grocery store," he said.

The center doesn't have a grocery store at the moment, however, and won't get one at least until 1985. Giant Open Air Markets operated there until last year when it closed to move to a larger space down the road at Heritage Square.

Giant is paying rent on its Grafton Shopping Center location to prevent a competing grocery from locating in the center. Its lease runs until 1985. The vacant store is 11,500 square feet, versus 29,500 square feet at Giant's Heritage Square store. "If the old store was bigger, we would have stayed," said Giant Real Estate Director C. Richard

Griffith.

Walters said he hopes to bring in a grocery in the future.

Grafton Shopping Center's largest space, 27,000 square feet, is occupied by The County Fair, a discount general merchandiser affiliated with the Gibson's chain until recently. "This community has had a steady growth over the years," said manager Sarah Cook. "Business is good. There's been a little competition (from nearby shopping centers), but we haven't felt any decrease in sales."

She said business dropped slightly when the adjacent grocery left last year.

Wanda Weeks, a State Farm Insurance agent, said the center was a natural place for her business. "It's an established landmark in the area, and office space was very limited when I was looking (two years ago)," she said. "I had planned on moving eventually, but it seems to be such a good place I don't think I will."



## Movies at library

GRAFTON—York County Library will have free movies and a summer reading club beginning June 21.

The reading club is open to children who have completed grades 1-6. Prizes will be awarded as children finish books and for those reading the most books.

Reading club participants will end the season Aug. 13 with a party.

Twice a week, June 22-Aug. 11, the library will offer 90 minutes of movies for

children. Movies will be shown each Tuesday at 2pm and repeated on Wednesday at 10am.

Preschool story hours will end for the summer Wednesday, June 9.

The library will be closed Memorial Day, May 31.

It's located in Grafton Shopping Center on Route 17 across from the Grafton fire station.

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at

America's  
**ABC**  
Libraries  
**XYZ**  
USA 20c  
Legacies To Mankind

## Children's Party

GRAFTON — A children's party at the York County Public Library will feature a mother and daughter clown team at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Children who participated in the summer reading program will be entertained by Thumper and Cupcake.

Prizes will be awarded to children who read the most books. DAILY PRESS 8/12

CRIER 8/12/82

# Kids' party ends summer book program

GRAFTON--"Thumper" and "Cupcake", a mother-daughter team, will perform for a children's party at the York County Public Library in Grafton on Friday, Aug. 13 at 1:30 pm.

The party, sponsored by the Friends of the York County Library, marks the

end of the Summer Reading Program. All children who have participated in the "Jack and the Bookstalk" reading club are invited to attend. Special prizes will be awarded to those who read the greatest number of books during the time of the program, June 21 through

August 11. A very special door prize will also be awarded.

Pre-School Story Hour will resume after school opens in the fall.

Regular library hours are 10 am to 9 pm weekdays and 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays.

# Library decision

Town Crier:

I am surprised and disappointed that your paper did not print an article or at least a public notice of a very important happening in Yorktown this week, namely, on Aug. 20 at 9am, when the board of supervisors will attempt to get a decision as to whether or not their selection under the library bond referendum is legal.

We live in a wonderful country, but

even its most ardent advocates do not like to claim that it is perfect. For example, it is well known that for something to be LEGAL does not necessarily make it RIGHT.

The action by the board in trying to prove that their decision is legal, in the face of stubborn and even bitter feelings on the part of the citizenry, indicates a rather stiff-necked attitude as to their own omnipotence, and not a willingness to reflect the needs and desires of their constituents. More than that, it shows what many of us believe to be a matter of each of good faith in their duties.

I am, of course, referring to the fact that in October of last year in preparation for the vote on the bond referendum a newsletter from the York County government stated that a vote for the referendum would be a vote for a new library in the Grafton area. At no time did the board contradict this belief until it came time to select a site. Those who voted (MANY of them) feel that to select a site which is half marsh, so narrow that it will be a problem to place the new library on the balance, and so inconvenient that an additional strip of land must be acquired for access, and considerably north of the center of population of those who will be paying for the bond -- well, they would not have voted for the library bond in that instance.

If the board really wants to represent fairly and honestly their taxpayers, instead of getting a vote of narrow legality on their action, why do they not put it again to the voters: knowing the site selected, would they still vote for the bond? Who knows, they might say yes. But in either case, it would settle the matter one way or the other. The minimal cost involved would be well worth the effort. After all, isn't this a country OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE?

(Note: This vote would not, of course, affect the validity of the bond, but merely of the board's selection of the proper site.)

N. L. Ayer.  
Yorktown

DAILY PRESS  
8/21/82

GRAFTON SITE

## Library Unopposed

YORKTOWN — York County residents opposed to building a new county library north of Grafton failed to show up for a hearing Friday.

During the hearing York Circuit Court Judge G. Duane Holway approved the county's plan to sell \$900,000 worth of bonds to finance construction of a library near the intersection of Route 17 and Harrod Lane.

Library board chairman Penny Nichols said county residents who want the library built closer to Grafton had been expected to attend the hearing and oppose the bond sale.

Proponents of the new library were busy this week calling opponents to convince them not to oppose the bond sale, she said. Opposing the bond sale would not have changed the library site, but could have killed the library project, she said.

"A number of individuals have been upset with the site selection," she said. Grafton is the geographical center of the lower end of York County, and many residents want the library built there.

The Harrod Lane site was chosen, however, because it was donated to the county. It is about

two miles north of Grafton. Land was available in Grafton for the library, "but the county would have had to pay for it," she said.

The site where the library is to be built is between the county's Edgehill and Marlbank housing subdivisions.

Approval of the bond sale is just one step of several required before the library can be built. The county must wait for 30 days before the bonds can be sold. Building plans for the library must be developed and approved by county supervisors and bids for construction must be let and awarded.



s by Nan Brown



## Reading reaps rewards

York County Library wrapped up its summer reading club last Friday with a party sponsored by the Friends of the Library featuring prizes, refreshments and a mother-and-daughter clown team, Thumper and Cupcake. Even the ones who couldn't read had a good time, as Cupcake tickles a small friend's chin, above. At left, Thumper congratulates Allison Ohlgren of Newport News, granddaughter of Nelson and Marge Harris, who won a Smurf as a door prize. The 66 children who read 20 or more books in the program were eligible for prizes of tickets to Busch Gardens and three "very large" cookies. Winners in the drawing were Genie Davis, Emily Trexler, David Compton and Cassandra Woolard. Sixth grader Alan Tai topped the club's rolls by reading 98 books, and won a special prize.

# Library backers, resigned to site, want building to begin

by Dorothy Harris  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN — It's been a long three-year struggle to get started on a new library for York County, says head librarian Beverly Dudley. But library board members and other supporters hope

the new building will be on its way soon.

Only a handful of spectators heard Circuit Court Judge Duane Holloway declare York's \$900,000 bond referendum valid Aug. 20. No one spoke in opposition.

Cramped in the tiny Grafton Shop-

ping Center library, with no room for magazines, limited room for reference materials and new books, and circulation increasing by as many as 200 new users a month, library supporters asked the county in 1981 and again in 1982 to include a new library in York's capital improvements. Both years they were

turned down.

Last year, the library forces secured the necessary signatures and got a library bond referendum on the fall's election ballot.

The referendum passed handily, except in Election District No. 1 outside Williamsburg. Residents there, for the most part, make use of Williamsburg Regional Library, since many work and shop in Williamsburg.

York County pays Williamsburg \$29,000 a year for library services for county residents.

It will be at least spring before ground can be broken for the new library, says county engineer Fred Whitley. Whitley, working with library representatives and the county staff, is looking at the preliminary designs for the planned 11,000-square-foot library — the minimum that would meet library standards for a community the size of York.

Plans include a separate children's room, a meeting and activities room to accommodate movie showing, an area reserved for local history reference materials and a reading area with magazines and other periodicals.

After final plans are approved by the library board and the supervisors, bids will be let and a contractor named.

County supervisors had asked for the circuit court's validation of the bond referendum after hearing from residents opposed to the new library's site — land on Harrods Lane at Route 17 donated by the late Leslie O'Hara.

Opponents of the Harrods Lane area said it was too far from the population center of the lower county, the area to be primarily served by the new facility.

But it has been nearly a year since the library referendum was passed by the voters, and although some are still unhappy with the Harrods Lane area, library board members would like to get on with a new building.

Board members had discouraged those against the library site from appearing at the Aug. 20 hearing, said Library Board Chairman Penny Nichols. "Opposition would not change the library site, but could prevent a new library. The supervisors have accepted the property and voted to build the new library there," said Mrs. Nichols.



# Another idea for the Bargain Mall: turn it into a library

Dear Citizens, Taxpayers, Library Board, Public Works Department and Board of Supervisors of the County of York:

As the citizens and taxpayers of York County, you have the opportunity to have the new public library building located in the Grafton section of the county, while realizing a possible savings in total cost of construction of the building.

The following facts and opinions are offered for your consideration:

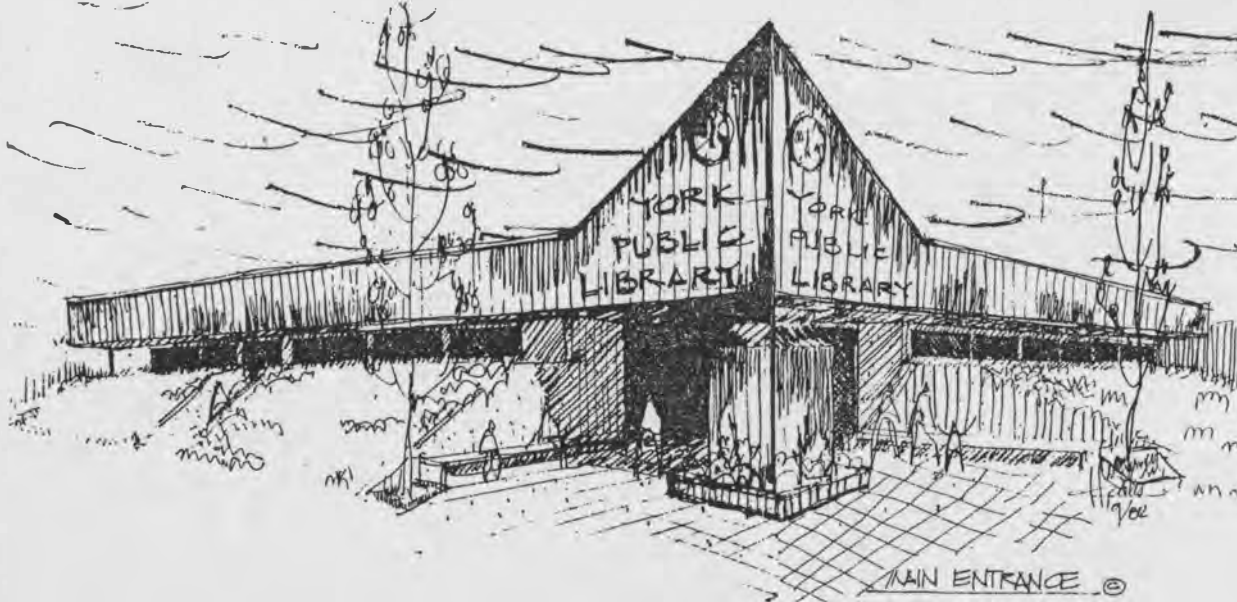
The development known as the "Bargain Mall," located between Lakeside Drive and Dare Road, in Grafton, on the east side of Route 17, has been recently offered for sale. The real estate agent handling the sale of this property has offered the following facts concerning the sale of this centrally located land and building.

The land, two acres, and building, 100 feet x 120 feet for 12,000 square feet of enclosed space, about 160 feet of frontage along Route 17, all utilities and gravel parking lot: asking price, \$465,250.

The proposed library building (only 11,000 square feet) is projected to cost \$605,000. This figure does not include the following additional costs: land acquisition, \$60,000; utility improvements, \$25,000; and site improvements, \$20,000; for a total cost of \$710,000! The remaining monies from the budgeted total of \$900,000 are set aside for furnishings and contingencies. The figures used above come from an "Architect Selection Work and Background Package," prepared by the department of public works.

If there is a cost comparison of the figures, the purchase of the Bargain Mall property appears to be the most cost-effective for the county and the taxpayers. The sale of this improved real estate has been on the market only a short time. Its review and possible selection as a library building site could not have been considered by the library board, public works department or the board of supervisors; the land and building were not for sale until a few weeks ago.

The difference of \$244,750, the cost of the land and building, would not be totally realized due to the renovation process that would have to occur. A budget figure of \$200,000 could be assigned for the renovation work, and the remainder, \$44,750, could be applied to the furnishings budget if necessary. The real question, in addition to the building (with an additional 1,000 square feet of enclosed space over the proposed building) costing less than the original budgeted figure, is the concern for the location of this important-to-be accessible public building. The Bargain Mall property has the loca-



## Letters

More  
letters,  
page 11

the site.

Items for your consideration:

1. The two acres containing the "mall" building need to be subdivided. The cost and action necessary for this subdivision would be paid for by the existing owner.

2. The existing septic tanks and drain field system are located on a parcel that would be detached from the "mall" building's two-acre lot. As part of the sales contract, the existing system would be allowed to remain with an easement for that function as long as the system is required. Public sewerage is available within 1,000 feet of the property on Route 17.

3. The existing building and site would require modification and finishing. The base course for the parking lot is already in place. The exterior of the building should be redesigned to provide an attractive, energy-efficient design, a new look.

4. The existing structural system is a clear-span, rigid steel frame building with a eave-height clearance of 14 feet. This structural system will allow for a variety of interior space designs and a variety of ceiling heights; the

6. The exterior design work and renovation process could be started almost immediately. The interior renovations could proceed upon the "drying in" of the exterior, during the usually wet and cold winter season. A possible savings in construction costs may be realized in that the winter season is normally a slow time in the construction building year. The library could be open for use by late spring, 1983. Time is money, and to be able to use the remodeled building, a year ahead of schedule, would allow a savings of materials and labor costs based upon today's depressed construction industry prices.

7. The "mall" building has some very important considerations that were a concern of the library board's consultant, Holt Galvin and Associates, (as contained in their Report No. 100, Nov. 1980.) Considerations such as: minimum size of the initial building—11,000 square feet; location—Route 17; structure — one story with ease of future expansion; interior — clear spans for the greatest flexibility of interior space designs; energy conservation — building siting, fenestration (windows, ventilating type) and earth berming for exterior space definition and interest, and for thermal and acoustic insulation, and parking control.

8. The location and existing improvements to the building and land give the

other owners of similar buildings to upgrade their properties in an attempt to create a more effective and pleasant business environment along the county's busiest corridor.

9. In order to ensure total coordination of the renovation process, the architectural firm now under contract with the county for professional services for this commission could be redirected to revise their plans to include this structure as the solution to the design of the library facility. A notice published last week in this paper indicated that the architect's drawings were at the schematic stage. This stage of development is only the preliminary phase of their professional services to be rendered; the architects could easily be redirected toward the renovation design process.

Therefore, I present the above facts and opinions to the taxpayers for their knowledge and consideration, and ask any and all to contact their friends, neighbors, members of the library board, public works department and board of supervisors to ask:

"Why not?"

The location and usage of a public library is too important to the taxpayers to be left to a 3-2 vote for a filled parcel of "free" land at the northern end of the lower county.

J. L. Bates  
Grafton

YORKTOWN Crier 9/30/82

✓  
y, Oct. 14, 1982

*Library*

*J. H. 10/14/82*

# Owner considers future of mall

By RAY BETZNER

Staff Writer

YORK — County residents who would like to see the vacant Bargain Mall on Route 17 become a library or activity center for young people will have to work quickly.

Mall owner Dr. Ralph R. Novoa likes the two proposals, but said he would sell the building to anyone who had the money to buy it.

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They also asked the staff to study the youth center proposal.

Crier 9/9/82  
**Story hour**

**YORKTOWN --** Pre-school story hour will resume at the York County Public Library Tuesday, Sept. 14. This is a change of day from previous years.

The story hour, for children 3 and over, will begin at 10:30am and will last 45 minutes to an hour.

A short movie will follow the stories and games. No pre-registration is necessary.



DEC. 11, 1982

#### LIBRARY PARTY

A children's Christmas party at the Library was hosted by the Friends of the Library on Saturday, December 11. About thirty children brought ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree before enjoying refreshments and a Walt Disney movie.

#### LIBRARY PLANS ON VIEW

Architects Caro, Monroe and Liang are putting the finishing touches on floor plans for the new library building to be constructed on Route 17 at Harrod Lane. The basic plan may be seen at the Library.

Exterior plans were approved by the Board of Supervisors at the December 16 meeting and construction is expected to begin by spring.

--CS



## SPOTLIGHT

## Dudley and Colton

It isn't easy to obtain a Master's degree in Library Science in the state of Virginia--it's even more difficult when you're working full time and the classrooms are anywhere from 40 to 200 miles away--but, BEVERLY DUDLEY and NORMA COLTON have achieved this difficult goal. Both received diplomas in November.

For three years they have been going to evening classes twice a week, at Old Dominion University. A few short seminars were held at the University of Richmond and at Catholic University in Washington. Finally, in August they completed the 36-hour program, passed long comprehensive exams, and were awarded their diplomas by Catholic University.

Although the M.L.S. officially makes "professionals" of Beverly and Norma, they both have had years of practical experience in library work. Beverly has been directing the York County Library for more than twelve years. She graduated from Emporia State College (Kansas) with a BS degree in Education, and taught in schools in Kansas and in France before coming to Virginia. Having worked in high school and college libraries as a student, she was a valuable help when our library was first organized as an all-volunteer effort, and has guided its development ever since.

Norma majored in Library Science at Millersville State College, Pa., and worked in a vocational school library in York, Pa. before returning to Virginia.

Both Beverly and Norma found the professional courses informative and helpful, but state that what they found most enjoyable and useful was the opportunity to exchange ideas with other librarians. The graduate degree should enhance their career possibilities and earning power. The status and "earning power" of the York Library is also improved--the Virginia State Library allots more aid to libraries with "professionals" on the staff.

--CS



BEVERLY DUDLEY, librarian, and NORMA COLTON, library technician, proudly display their masters diplomas earned in November

YORK

✓ Va. Gazette  
12-29-82 Mm

## Finally, \$900,000 library to start

In what promises to be another rough year for the budgets of all levels of government, York County officials see little change in the size of the county's \$32.2 million annual spending plan. The reassessment of property is expected to affect the tax rate; however, the total amount of money collected by the county through real estate and personal property taxes is not expected to change radically in the election year.

Construction of a new county library is planned, with opening possible later this year. The \$900,000 facility at Route 17 and Cook Road will have four times the space of the current library.

With half the county's land area in federal hands and much of lower York a bedroom community for the cities on the Peninsula, industrial growth will be a priority. The prospects are good, development officials maintain. Firms are interested in moving to York and money is available.

York will have a new land use plan to guide development away from environmentally sensitive shorelines. The 25-year-old zoning ordinance is also likely to get close scrutiny from the planning commission with an eye toward overhauling it. With mortgage money at affordable rates, developers expect to give the planning commission a busy year.

Veeco is scheduled to begin the conversion of its Yorktown power station from oil to coal. County officials are confident that safeguards they have erected will prevent a recurrence of the air pollution of a decade ago and the water pollution caused by careless disposal of flyash.

Yorktown itself will become a popular stop on cruises of the Chesapeake Bay. The American Cruise Line has leased the pier at the post office for its exclusive use. Yorktown boosters also hope to have a new warship with the village's name at Yorktown Day celebrations in October.

Residents in the terrace neighborhoods of York and James City will be closer to getting better quality drinking water. A \$1.5 million project to bring fresh water to the neighborhoods is expected to begin in the early spring.